



“But when [Peter] saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’”

(Matthew 14:30)

“The more skilled we become in riding waves of growth, the more God sends!”

(Rick Warren in *The Purpose Driven Church*)

Sometimes, we wonder what we can do to start experiencing smooth sailing again after a period of navigating rough waters. We start thinking to ourselves, “What can I do to help make me grow? How can I build the next wave?” However, we must remember who the Great Wave Maker is! Perhaps we could gain some insight by asking, “What is *keeping me from growing?*”

What are some of the barriers that are blocking the waves God wants to send my way?

Barrier #1: Resignation

Barrier #2: Compromise

Barrier #3: Fear

Remember, waves can present challenges, but that’s not always a bad thing! The experience of “smooth sailing” requires placing a deeper level of trust in a loving Lord, His authoritative word, and His perfect will. Are you ready to start letting God reveal to you just how you can stand firm among the waves and the wind, avoiding any potential for sinking your faith by being blown around by doubts? Are you ready to start “Rising above the Wave”?

For Further Consideration this Week:

Monday: Meditate on Isaiah 51:15. What does this verse remind you about in terms of God’s control? When you have a difficult time “treading on the waters of life,” just remember that the Great Wave Maker is in control!

Tuesday: Read Psalms 69:1-3, 16-18. Have you ever shared the feelings expressed by the Psalmist in verses 1-3? Perhaps you’ve felt helpless, but you aren’t left hopeless! As you read verses 16-18, consider how *you* might call out to the Lord for His help.

Wednesday: Read Job 9:7-9. When you feel like life is closing in on you or that you’re “going under,” keep in mind Who is “on top of the situation.” Maybe you need to stop struggling to handle your own situations and let God do it for you! Are you ready to submit?

Thursday: Read Psalms 89:8-9. As you read these verses, take some time to release your worries, doubts, and fears. Knowing that God is over everything brings about a tremendous calming effect, doesn’t it?

Friday: Read Romans 8:31-32. As you read these verses, be sure to come to terms with an answer to the following question: “If God is on *my* side, who can be against me?” When you put it that way, it can really help you to keep life’s waves and choppy waters in perspective!

Saturday: Meditate on Ephesians 4:11-15. “Smooth sailing” requires placing your trust in a loving Lord, His authoritative word, and His perfect will. Let God reveal to you just how you can stand firm among the waves and the wind, avoiding any potential for sinking your faith by being blown around by doubts.