



Be Confident Devotion

I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

Jesus said, “Take away the stone” (John 11:39a). Lazarus had been dead for four days. To remove the door of the burial cave seemed futile, repulsive. But the people obeyed Jesus’ command. And Lazarus came out!

Lord Jesus, I ought to be much more alive than I am! Knowing You love me should fill me with peace, joy, vibrant hope. You stand at the door of my heart and knock. If I open the door, You promise to come in. Lord, I’ll make room for You. Live in me today. Help me rejoice in Your fellowship.

The man was paralyzed, his muscles shriveled and useless. Jesus said to him, *“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home”* (Luke 5:24b). How could he possibly manage to get up and walk, much less carry his cot? Jesus’ command gave him the power to do it.

O Lord, forgive my excuses: “I could never do that. It can’t be done. It won’t work.” Strengthen me, Lord, to believe I can do what You tell me to do. You say, *“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me* (Luke 9:23). Without You I can do nothing. Filled with Your power I can do all things.

“How will this be?” (Luke 1:34), Mary asked. A virgin conceive and bear a son? Impossible! The angel’s explanation was equally hard to understand, yet Mary believed. *“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word”* (Luke 1:38). Mary expected a miracle. It happened!

Dear Lord, You tell me to do things that seem impossible. How can I love my enemies? Do good to those who hate me? Forgive those who hurt me? Increase my faith to believe that with You all things are possible. Help me expect miracles. I will live according to Your Word. May it happen to me as You have said.

When Jesus said, *“Come”* (Matthew 14:28b), Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water. What an exciting, never-to-be-forgotten moment! But it didn’t last. *But when he saw the wind* (Matthew 14:30a), he was frightened and started to sink. Peter thought of the risks involved. When he concentrated on his problems, his heart sank. So do he!

O Lord, sometimes I see the vision of all You want me to be and to do. I hear Your words of challenge and command. I believe You. I have noble intentions ... but, Lord, I have problems —

discouraging, perplexing problems. When I take my eyes off You my troubles look insurmountable. Oh, me of little faith! Lord, help my unbelief!

They had already washed their nets after toiling in vain all night. *“Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch”* (Luke 5:4b). Indeed! The time and place seemed all wrong. The men were tired, ready to quit. Nevertheless, they obeyed. And their nets were filled to the breaking point!

Lord, at times I toil and “catch” nothing; work hard, but get nowhere. Give me new hope and confidence. Fill me with Your Spirit’s power. Guide me to say and do the loving, courageous thing. Help me bring glory to You today.

“Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each” (Luke 9: 14b). Invite 5000 people for lunch when all you have is five loaves and two fish? Impossible! Common sense told the Twelve to send the crowds away. Faith made them obey.

Father in heaven, common sense sometimes tells me to be overly concerned with circumstances beyond my control. You tell me not to be anxious about the future because You’ll provide for all my needs. Help me believe Your promise. Give me the courage to invite others to sit at Your banquet table. Strengthen my faith in Your love, my confidence in Your power.

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