

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## Walking on the Water

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.



But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

—Matthew 14:22-27.

For many people there is but one world: the material, physical world in which they can see, hear, touch, taste, and feel. The more enlightened person, however, knows that higher worlds of finer substance exist, and that we are now being prepared to live consciously in them in the future. Much of the teaching of Christ Jesus pertained to future conditions wherein we will function in more ethereal states of matter, as He did at the time He was upon the Earth.

The vehicle which humanity began to evolve through living the life of love and service as taught by Christ Jesus is the soul body, and He emphasized the importance of acquiring this luminous "golden wedding garment" by numerous veiled references to it in His parables. Interpreting the above passage from the esoteric viewpoint, we would understand that He is assisting His disciples into the invisible realms, away

from the multitudes, clothed in the soul body, which is spoken of as a "ship." Only the vanguard of humanity, such as the disciples, had soul bodies at the time of Christ, and the multitudes could not follow into the invisible realms for lack of a suitable vehicle. Then, "He went up into a mountain apart to pray," which may be interpreted to mean that He withdrew into a high state of consciousness to prepare for work on the inner planes with His disciples.

The disciples, not being thoroughly trained in functioning on the inner planes, were having their difficulties, and their "ship" was "tossed by the waves" of the Desire World. The Desire World, particularly the lower regions, is a turbulent place for those not fully prepared to function there, but Christ Jesus, with His power over all conditions, was able to bring harmony wherever He chose. His ability to "walk on the sea" indicates that He had entirely mastered His desire nature, the goal for every spiritual aspirant.

Among the first tests given the neophyte on the inner planes is that in regard to fear. Many experiences of various kinds are given to train the aspirant not to fear, for until he has conquered this emotion to a considerable extent he cannot cope with the beings on the invisible planes. Some of these are exceedingly repulsive and dangerous in appearance, but may easily be kept in their places by an attitude of poise and faith. "Perfect love casteth out fear," and as we evolve the soul body through love and service we automatically dispel the lower emotions. An inner realization of the Christ Presence leaves no room for negative feelings, for the Spirit responds to the assurance of the words: "Lo, it is I, be not afraid!"