

## **Your Walk of Faith in Christ (Through the Line of Satanic Resistance)**

by Steve Barwick

In this short study, we're going to take a look at our walk of faith in Christ and what the Bible tells us that means in terms of the events we're to face in the final days of this flesh earth age – particularly that period of time when Satan in his role as the false messiah arrives to this earth to deceive the multitudes, and God's elect will be arrested and delivered up to "councils" (i.e., Jewish legal courts known as Sanhedrin) and to "synagogues" (Jewish places of worship) in order to give a testimony against the ruling class at the great trials described in Mark 13.

### **Point "A" to Point "B"**

Those who sincerely study their Father's Word know that if His Word tells you you're going to take a journey from point A to point B, you can rest assured you're going to be leaving from point A, and you're going to be successfully arriving at point B.

For God's elect, there's no need to fear making it from the starting point to the finishing point. All you have to do is follow His Word, and you'll go all of the way through. It's a *given*, because *He said so*. And when your heavenly Father says a thing, you can rest assured "It is done."

For example, our Father's Word tells us that in this final generation, just before Christ's second advent takes place, there's going to be a period of unprecedented spiritual darkness during which Satan will be on this earth deceiving the people (Rev. 12:7-9), while masquerading as the Lamb of God (Rev. 13:11) and performing great and convincing miracles that will have the whole world worshipping him as its messiah (Revelation 13:13-14).

The Scripture also tells us that God's elect will successfully stand against Satan throughout that time of great deception, while the rest of the world will unwittingly bow to that old deceiver, believing him to be "Jesus."

God's elect are destined to go through that period of great deception, which starts the moment Satan and his fallen angels set foot on this earth (point A), and ends the moment Christ Jesus arrives to have Satan tossed into the pit (point B).

As it's written of those faithful overcomers who stand alone, firmly and faithfully, against Satan and his great deception at that time:

**Revelation 12:11** -- And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Did you note the past tense used in that verse? It doesn't say "And they will overcome him." It says "they *overcame* him..." In other words, it's already done.

God's elect will go from point A (Satan's arrival) to point B (Christ's arrival). And in the process they will prevail over the devil. They get the victory through "the word of their testimony" and by standing firmly in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, refusing to abandon it for a miracle-working substitute messiah.

It's crucial to understand that while this event has not yet come to pass at any time in history, there's no doubt that it *will* come to pass. It's written that God's elect will indeed be delivered up to the trials described in Mark 13...that God Himself will speak through them when it comes time for them to testify...and that as a result of that testimony and their faith in Christ, they'll overcome Satan.

Let's take a quick look at what's written:

**Mark 13:9** -- But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

That's your destiny as one of God's elect, beloved. You're to be delivered up to those trials for refusing to bow the knee to the false Christ (Romans 11:4), and to deliver a testimony against the "rulers and kings" for Christ's sake.

**Mark 13:10** -- And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

The multitudes on this earth are going to hear the Word of God, loud and clear, like they've never heard it before. For many of them, it will be the very *first* time they've ever heard God's Word taught correctly. That's why God allows His elect to be delivered up to the councils and synagogues of Satan in the first place. The attention of the entire world will be on those trials. And what's going to happen? Let's take a quick look...

**Mark 13:11** -- But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

You aren't even to think about your defense speech at those trials. Your advocate, which is to say, your spiritual defense attorney, Jesus Christ (I John 2:1), is going to speak *through your lips* at those trials, utilizing the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

In other words, the cloven-tongue language spoken at the first Pentecost after Christ's death on the cross will return. And everyone will hear the testimony delivered by God's elect in their own language and dialect, just as they did on that first Pentecost day.

And as I mentioned above, for many people it will be the first time they'll have ever heard God's Word taught correctly. And that's because God Himself will be delivering it to them through the mouths of His election.

**Mark 13:12** -- Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

We know from Hebrews 2:14 that Satan is the one who possesses the power of death. And we know he wields that power through deception. But he can't deceive God's elect.

While well-meaning family members will indeed deliver God's faithful elect up to Satan in his role as he false messiah...and while Satan will indeed put them on trial under penalty of death for refusing to bow the knee to him...they won't fall for the deception. The pressure, though appearing to be insurmountable, will not distract them. After all, they know their Father's Word says:

*"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Romans 8:33-34)*

Only God can lay a legal charge against His elect. They're His. And His alone. They're part and parcel of His own body. And God has already justified them, which is to say, He has already judged them and found them to be innocent.

Satan's show trial can't reverse that. God will indeed make intercession on behalf of his beleaguered faithful election by speaking directly through their lips at those trials. As it's further written in Luke 21:15, *"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."*

In other words, God's Word says we're going through those trials. All of the way through. And we win in the end. And it's written, so "It is done." He'll be our spiritual defense attorney. He'll do the talking, through us. So we can't lose. But many will be woken to the truth at that crucial time, and will turn away from the false Messiah and back to the Lord.

**Mark 13:13** -- And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

If you endure faithfully unto the end, you get saved. Got that? If you don't cave in to Satan under pressure, you get saved by Christ. You're going from point A (i.e., Satan's arrival to this earth) to point B (i.e., Christ's Second Advent). Don't allow yourself to get distracted by *anything* thrown at you during the course of the journey.

When the Lord shows up on the scene at His second advent and puts an end to Satan's big show trial, the individual destinies of God's elect for this flesh earth age will have been fulfilled. This flesh earth age will be over with. And the millennium teaching period will follow immediately, during which time the elect will teach God's wayward and deceived children "the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean" (Ezekiel 44:23).

In other words, they'll teach God's children how to tell religious deception from truth.

Therefore, because it's written, "It is done." We *already* have the victory at those trials. Past tense. It's *already* under our belts, so to speak, as long as we have that general working knowledge of His plan, and His promises, and *follow through on it* without allowing ourselves to become shaken from our destiny when Satan arrives.

We have no need to fear. It's written that God's elect will successfully overcome Satan, "by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." And so they will.

In summary, our commission to stand against Satan during this great time of deception begins the minute Satan sets foot on this old earth (point A), and ends at Christ's arrival (point B).

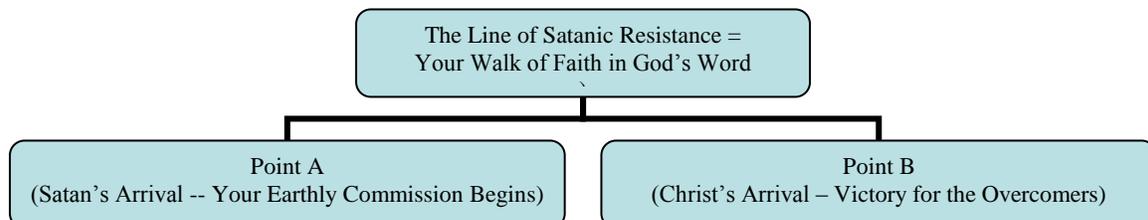
We're going to successfully walk *in faith* straight through that time of great deception, from point A to point B, turning neither to the left nor the right, but keeping our eyes on our destination, which is Christ Jesus.

### **The Line of Satanic Resistance**

But *between* point A and point B there's what you might think of as "the line of Satanic resistance."

In other words, Satan's goal is to catch you in his web of deception somewhere between point A and point B. And to do so, he needs to cause a breach in your faith.

Somewhere between point A and point B, he needs to distract you from your focus on your destination. He needs to find the chinks in your Gospel Armor, so to speak -- your weak points.



But God's elect know that if God has said we're going to overcome Satan and his great deception, then "It is done." And Satan's resistance be damned, we're going through, from point A to point B, in victory.

And at that time, while Satan will inevitably *try* to distract and stumble us during that walk from point A (i.e., Satan's arrival) to point B (i.e., Christ's Second Advent), there's really nothing he can do to stop us from making it *if* we stand obedient to our heavenly Father's Word.

As it's written in the great book of Luke, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has given us all of the power we need to stand firm against the enemy:

**Luke 10:19** -- Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

That's a powerful promise. And it's yours to claim in *faith* as a disciple of Christ. Remember: It's written. Therefore, "It is done." *So claim it*, in Jesus' precious name. It's yours to claim.

With a promise like that in hand, you can confidently move forward during that time of great deception, from point A to point B, keeping your mind firmly focused on your destination and not being distracted by the Satanic storm around you. You have the victory. It's already written in His Word.

What's my point?

It's this: To a person weak in faith the journey from point A to point B might represent a "line of Satanic resistance." But to one of God's elect, the journey from point A to point B is simply *our walk of faith in Christ*.

God's elect know that all they have to do is keep moving forward, from the starting point A (i.e., Satan's arrival) to the destination point B (i.e., Christ's arrival), in accord with the written Word.

It's written that we have the victory. Therefore we *know* we have the victory. We can count on His Word coming to pass exactly as it is written.

### **Crossing the Stormy Sea: An Example Christ Left for Us**

In chapter 14 of the great book of Matthew, Christ has been kind enough to give us a very good example to follow for that precise period of time that occurs between point A (i.e., Satan's arrival) to point B (i.e., Christ's Second Advent).

To briefly set the stage for you, in this chapter Christ has just finished miraculously feeding the multitudes who were gathered together with Him in a remote area on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

After feeding the multitudes, darkness begins to fall, and He then told His small handful of disciples to get in a boat and cross over the Sea of Galilee, to meet with Him later on the other side. Let's go there now and learn how to get from point A to point B successfully, under Christ's direction:

**Mathew 14:22** -- 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.

The word "constrain" means to compel. In other words, Christ gave His disciples a direct order to go across the Sea of Galilee before Him, to the other side, and meet Him there.

And if He said it, then you can rest assured that "It is done." The disciples are going across that Sea of Galilee, no matter what Satan throws up to stumble them between point A and point B.

Symbolically speaking, our Lord and Savior is telling us that *we too* must cross a great "sea" in the final days of this flesh earth age. You might think of it as that great sea of people described in Revelation 17:15, who have succumbed to the flood of Satanic deception (Revelation 13:1-10).

The flood of Satanic deception comes out of Satan's mouth when he is here on this earth (Rev. 12:15-16). But where does it go? It goes into the ears of the multitudes. And they become whipped up into a frenzy of religious revival by the Satanic spirit working upon them.

Our commission for Christ -- our walk from point A to point B -- begins when those four winds of Revelation 7:1 and Daniel 7:2 are unleashed, and usher in Satan and his fallen angels to this earth.

And symbolically speaking we'll cross over that sea of deceived people, planting seeds of truth along the way wherever appropriate, and going straight through Satan's great flood of deception, to embrace Christ on the other side at His second advent.

So what else can we learn from this example Christ set forth for us? Let's continue...

**Mathew 14:23** -- 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.

The phrase "He went up into a mountain apart to pray" is symbolic of Christ's return to heaven after the crucifixion and resurrection.

Symbolically speaking, He has ordered His faithful Christian servants to start across the sea *while He takes care of other business*. And we're to meet Him on the other side.

You'll note in the above verse that this takes place at evening time, which you might think of symbolically as the time of Satanic darkness when Satan arrives to this earth to pull off his great deception.

**Matthew 14:24** -- But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

Keep in mind that the sea is symbolic of the great multitudes of people of the earth (Rev. 17:15) who have succumbed to the flood of Satanic deception. They're under the direct influence of the Satanic spirit.

When Satan arrives to this earth, we'll be crossing that sea of people, so to speak, and spreading the truth as we go. But the winds come up, and the waves grow uproarious. This represents the opposition we'll encounter from the people we attempt to reach with the message that they're actually worshipping the antichrist, and not Jesus Christ.

Did not Christ tell us that during the time of Satan's great flood of deception we'd be "hated of all men" (Mark 13:13) for standing firm in His Word, and that some of your own family members and friends would turn against you (Mark 13:12), thinking they're doing you a favor by delivering you up to Satan whom they think is Christ?

How did you think you'd get to those trials we discussed a little earlier, to deliver your testimony? In other words, symbolically speaking, this uproarious sea and the contrary winds driving it are representative of the deceived peoples of the world acting under the Satanic spirit.

It's important to note that the word "wind" used in the verse above is the *plural* Greek word *anemos*, meaning not just one wind but *many winds* and implying convergence from all four directions of the earth. As Strong's Concordance states:

## **G417**

ἄνεμος

anemos

an'-em-os

From the base of **G109**; *wind*; (plural) by implication (the four) quarters (of the earth): - wind.

The word "contrary" in the verse above means "antagonistic." In other words, these antagonistic winds are coming at the disciples from all four directions.

This should immediately bring to your mind the "four winds" of Revelation 7:1-3 and Daniel 7:2 that usher in Satan and his fallen angels to this earth, and kick off their worldwide religious revival, which we're told in Revelation 12:9 "deceives the whole world."

**Mathew 14:25** -- And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

Christ is in control of everything.

The fourth watch of the night is from about 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. In other words, this watch begins at the *darkest part of the night*, and ends at *daybreak*, i.e., sun up. Symbolically speaking, it begins at Satan's arrival, and ends at Christ's Second Advent.

You can bet the great windy storm that struck the disciples in their boat began somewhere shortly after 3 a.m., and Christ came walking toward them across this stormy sea in the darkness, just shortly before the break of day.

Spiritually speaking, this represents Christ's second advent, when he comes at the very peak of Satan's deception to gather His elect from the four ends of the earth, calming that stormy sea by destroying Satan's fallen angels (Revelation 11:13), putting Satan in chains and tossing him into the pit (Revelation 20:1-3) while ushering in the "daybreak" of the millennium teaching period.

**Mathew 14:26** -- And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

Christ allowed this entire event to happen to the disciples as an example to us. Through this example, we know to expect Christ's arrival at the very peak of the Satanic storm. It's always darkest just before the dawn, beloved.

Unlike the disciples, we've been told *in advance*, through Scripture, exactly what to watch for. When those two faithful witnesses of Revelation chapter 11 are killed in the streets of Jerusalem, we know our Lord and Savior's arrival is only three and a half days away (Revelation 11:7-19). We have nothing to fear. We're going all the way through the Satanic darkness to the "dayspring from on high" (Luke 1:78).

**Mathew 14:27** -- But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

In the original Greek, what Christ really said was "*Have courage! I AM! Fear not!*"

It was a direct order to His extremely frightened disciples. And it's a direct order to *us* as well, both now, and in particular during that great time of Satanic deception when we must remain focused on our destination, which is Christ.

Note the use of the sacred name "I AM" right in the middle of Christ's direct order to His frightened disciples. Christ stated this for great and solemn emphasis. After all, He's that One who controls the whole ball of wax. He even controls Satan's actions. Though Satan doesn't necessarily realize it, he can do *nothing* without our Lord and Savior's permission. Christ is the great "I am." He's large and in charge.

Therefore, we have nothing to fear whatsoever. If we've diligently studied our Father's Word, meditating on it each day as the Scripture advises, we have the general overall knowledge of how everything is going to come to pass.

Therefore, by knowing and following His Word, we'll successfully reach our destination. Let that build your courage greatly.

**Matthew 14:28** -- And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

It's obvious that St. Peter loved the Lord very much. He was always quick to act with confidence when He realized the Lord was around (John 18:10; John 21:7). You can act with great confidence in God and His Word too, beloved. But you must first *know* His Word in order to act on it with confidence.

**Matthew 14:29** -- And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Note the condition here, after Peter requested to come to Him on the water: the Lord said "Come." If the Lord says "Come," then you can come. But be sure to keep your eyes on *Him*. Don't let that old windbag Satan trip you up in your walk of faith by distracting your attention from your destination, which is Christ. Once Christ gives you your marching orders, you fix your eyes on Him (through His Word) and start marching. Got it?

**Matthew 14:30** -- But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Peter momentarily took his eyes off the Lord, and looked at the boisterous winds instead. That's why he began to sink into the stormy sea.

In the Greek, the word "boisterous" means *mighty* and *forcible*. The boisterous winds represent Satan's actions on this earth during the time of his great deception, which is to say, his great miracles and his power to successfully deceive the multitudes through his deceptive spirit.

In a sense, these boisterous winds represent Satan's apparent success. Indeed, he will successfully convince the vast majority of people on this earth that he is the Christ of God. And he'll take over the world system, instituting his fake kingdom of heaven on earth, which the Scripture calls "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth."

The lesson here is that while Satan is on earth pretending to be Christ, setting up his global system of governance, and working many mighty signs and miracles to deceive the multitudes, God's faithful servants cannot afford to take their eyes off the Word of God, and begin to focus on the seeming success of Satan's campaign of deception.

Satan is going to be fabulously successful at deceiving the masses. As it states in Revelation 12:9, he "deceiveth the whole world." So expect it. Don't let it surprise you.

Simply put, we must stay focused on *our* destination (i.e., Christ), and not allow ourselves to be sidetracked or distracted by Satan's little road show.

Father has told us that we're going from point A to point B, which means we're going *straight through* that Satanic storm to greet Christ on the other side at His second advent (Revelation 15:2-4).

We're going to walk in faith straight through that line of Satanic resistance, to the other side where Christ and His millennium Kingdom awaits.

**Matthew 14:31** -- And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Christ asks Peter, "Why did you have doubts?" In verse one, had not Christ told them they were going across to the other side? And when Peter asked to step out of the boat and come to Christ across the waters, did not Christ say "Come"?

Once your commission goes into effect, beloved, you're going all the way through. You can count on it, for "It is written," and if it's written, then "It is done."

Take your walk of faith right through the Satanic storm, keeping your spiritual eyes focused on your destination. Stick with the Word of God. That old windbag Satan will try to cause doubts. He'll try to distract your attention. He'll try to disrupt your focus on Christ. You can safely ignore him. Don't get caught up in the drama, or you can get tripped up in your journey from point A to point B. Get it?

And when you're delivered up to those trials described in Mark 13:9-13, to deliver a testimony, know for a fact that this is your destiny. It's what you've been put on this earth for, in the final days of this flesh earth age.

As it's written, you need not even contemplate what you'll say at that time, for your heavenly Father will speak through you (Mark 13:11). And those words that come through your lips will bowl the entire world over (Luke 21:15-19).

By the way, it's important to note that even though Peter messed up for a brief moment, he's still going through from point A to point B.

Why? Because when he messed up, he also knew Who to turn to. He didn't turn to the other disciples in the boat and scream "Throw me a life jacket. I'm going to drown." Nope. Instead, he immediately returned His focus to Christ and said "Lord save me!"

Don't let that lesson be lost on you during Satan's great flood of deception.

**Matthew 14:32** -- And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

When Christ arrives, the Satanic storm is over. Don't wait until then to focus on your destination. Don't wait until the wind ceases to join the party of the faithful in that tiny ark of faith that crosses successfully to meet Christ on the other side.

Always keep firmly in mind Christ's words in Luke 13:25-28, regarding those who come up to Him after the fact, saying "Lord, lord, open to us." And because they had been more pre-occupied with the things of man (the sea and the boisterous winds) than with God's Word, He said to them, "*I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.*"

The bottom line is that at Christ's Second Advent, many who call themselves Christians will have to go through the 1,000 year "millennium" teaching period and be tested once more at the end of it, rather than enter into Christ's presence immediately upon His arrival.

Why? Because they didn't have the general working knowledge of God's great plan for this final generation, and of His promises to His faithful servants, and therefore they lost their faith during the Satanic storm.

They set their focus on the boisterous winds (i.e., Satan's signs and great miracles) and sank into that roaring sea of deceived multitudes that Christ's faithful disciples will successfully cross over.

**Matthew 14:33** -- Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

He truly is. Never forget that. There's a fake one coming, first. St. Paul wrote about that fake one very clearly and succinctly in II Thessalonians 2:1-4. And he explained that many Christians will fall away from the truth, which is to say, they'll apostatize.

It's been given by our heavenly Father that Satan comes with great power and might, like those boisterous winds that beat against the disciples' boat and roiled the sea.

But don't worry. You need not pay him the time of day. Let Satan's arrival not scare you, but instead, bolster your faith in God's Word. For at that point you'll see His Word unfolding before you exactly as it's written. And through your knowledge of His Word, you'll keep yourself focused upon your *destination*, which is Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 14:34** -- And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.

Well, well. They went all of the way across the Sea of Galilee, and came to the land of Gennesaret. Because Christ said it, it became so -- in spite of the powerful winds to the contrary.

If it's written, then "It is done." That's why, when Satan arrives to this earth and your commission finally becomes a reality, you'll know for a fact that you're going through the Satanic storm to the other side of the lake.

Satan will most assuredly put up a line of resistance between the point your commission for Christ begins, and the point at which you meet Christ on the other side at His second advent. But to one of God's elect, the distance between those two points is just a simple walk of faith. You know for a fact that you're going all of the way across. It's written. Therefore "It is done."

### **One Final Important Note:**

Christ spent much of His ministry teaching in and around the Sea of Galilee, which is the very sea the disciples crossed in the Bible account above.

The name Galilee means "a circuit," which is symbolic of that kingdom wedding circuit described in Psalms 19, which the bridegroom (Christ Jesus) completes, from His starting point (i.e., the first heaven age) to His finishing point (i.e., the third and final heaven age, which is the eternity).

What's more, the name Gennesaret means "harp shaped," symbolizing the fact that when we finish our walk of faith in Christ -- that "circuit" that constitutes the culmination of our commission on this earth -- the music starts and the Kingdom Wedding begins for all of those who are called to it.

"It is done." All we have to do is walk *in faith* from point A to point B to get there. Let no one tell you otherwise.

-- End --

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