Take My Hand

Save Me Lord or I Perish



Cameron Nolan

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INTRODUCTION

The Bible contains several messages aimed at building our faith as Christians and also broadens our knowledge about Christ who came to redeem us from sin and death. Christ came to restore peace, hope, and salvation to all who believe in him. Our world is full of troubles and trials but in the means of these trials, our Lord gives us his support to sustain us and make us overcome challenges that may come our way.

This book Take My Hand reflects on the encounter between Peter and Jesus when Peter saw him walking on the water in Mathew 14:25-33.

There are several lessons and spiritual benefits we can draw from this passage as we would learn from this book; however you can personalize this passage and relate it to your own experience with Christ just like Peter had his own experience. The Christian life is a journey that requires wisdom to scale through and achieve the purpose for which Christ has called each one of us. One fact we must understand is that Christ has called each one of us in a unique way, our response to him differs. We may choose to respond positively or to neglect his invitation; it's up to us to decide.

What's your response towards God's Call?

This is a personal question that we should answer for ourselves.

This book contains several spiritual insights and benefits which includes:

- Learning to overcome tribulations
- Understand the power of Jesus to save us
- Building our Faith
- Living a life of purpose and hope

This book contains mind-blowing information for those who truly want to make progress in their spiritual lives.

Very Important Information:

The author of this book has also published great books that will transform your life for good. These books have touched thousands of lives with a renewed spirit and healing of the mind.

You don't want to miss this!

Are you broken hearted? You're at the verge of giving up, worried or downcast; do you desire a renewed spirit or a touch from the lord? Worry no more be cause the authority and power of God's word and the right motivation is right in front of you.

Order these books now and receive mighty blessings and overflowing grace:

OPEN YOUR SPIRITUAL EYES

THE HEALING TOUCH OF JESUS

PRAYING THE WORD AND DECLARING GOD'S PROMISES INTO YOUR LIFE

THE POWER OF PRAISE

GOD WANTS YOUR MARRIAGE TO BE PURPOSEFUL

JESUS (Justification Established Sustained Unto Salvation) & MOSES (Man Observed Several Established Statute)

THE POWER OF POSITIVE DECLARATIONS

EXERCISE YOUR FAITH

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Born of Water & The Spirit

BREAKING THE WALLS OF JERICHO

Come To Me My Child

Move from the Crowd

LIVING IN GOD'S PEACE

BREAD & FISH

CHRIST THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

I SHALL OVERCOME

CHAPTER ONE

The Encounter

Verse 26-28 of Mathew 14 Peter seeing Jesus walking on the water had a remarkable encounter with the Lord; what he saw caught his attention and he could not resist the awesome glory he saw, this for him was a special privilege and encounter with the Lord.

Christ meets each one of us in a unique way and establishes a relationship with us. Every believer has his own story to tell about how they have witnessed Christ personally. The Bible is full of several encounters between different individuals who had witnessed Christ. Some encounters were smooth, others were rough but all points toward the same message of conversion. Christ draws us to himself each time he encounters us.

Our encounter with Christ is continuous and occurs irregularly after we must have witnessed our first encounter with him, he continues to visit us and draws us to himself.

Sometimes these encounter as earlier mentioned can be quite rigorous and tasking because for Christ to draw some of us to himself requires a hard knot. St Paul, for example, had a dramatic encounter, unlike Matthew who was just simply called off his duty as a tax collector.

Encounters are special moments for spiritual reflection in the life of every Christian. This is because when Christ visits us, he always has a message for us to ponder over. Similarly, there are graces released from Jesus to our souls each time he visits us, these graces are meant to sustain you in the course of your spiritual journey.

In this chapter we would try to look into some of the major encounters that brought conversation in the life of some individuals who met Christ in the Bible:

The Woman at the Well

This woman from Samaria came to draw water from the well as usual without expecting that anything special was coming her way. This is what happens to us most times; we encounter Jesus by accident, he takes us unawares when he wants to perform his miracles in our lives.

When we encounter Jesus our beliefs changes because by the revelation Christ gives to us, we begin to see things the way God wants us to see it.

This Samaritan woman had her beliefs influenced by her culture; according to her the Samaritans had nothing to do with the Jews and also the mountain was the true place of worship. However, her encounter with Christ changed her views about worshipping God and knowing the right way God wants to be worshiped.

Beyond revealing these truths to her, our Lord also revealed great spiritual insight to her by telling her about the mighty power of the Holy Spirit who is the living and regeneration water from God, and whoever partake in this water has life and never goes thirsty.

After her encounter with Jesus, her life changed for good, she became converted and her views

about worship and about the Jews also changed. This is what happens to us when we encounter Jesus, our views changes.

The Symbol of the Well

The encounter between this woman and Christ is quite remarkable and has lots of spiritual insight we can tap from as believers.

You may ask the question: Why did Jesus choose the well?

First, the well served as a meeting point for Christ to encounter this woman and make an impact in her life. Secondly, the well was a symbol of life because wells naturally make water available for man to achieve their daily purpose for living. Christ, who is the source of our spiritual life, wanted this woman to taste this abundant life and so he chose a well which was a symbol of supply, abundance, and life.

The Samaritan woman had her life transformed to a level she never thought for herself. She met Jesus who told her everything about her life to her. The message was so wonderful that she left what she was doing and called her friends and loved ones to also come and share in this abundant life Christ has given to her. How often do we share our wonderful insight about Christ with our brethren? Often times we are selfish and reserve our spiritual blessings received to ourselves alone without sharing it with our brethren.

Paul

The Apostle Paul had a radical encounter with Christ. When Jesus wants to transform our lives he either does it quietly or he could choose the radical approach. Paul was a radical personality

and an extremist who would not have the patience of listening to the good news of salvation the apostles were preaching at that time. In fact, he even sought permission from the High Priest so he could persecute Christians. Therefore, for Christ to draw him to himself he had to knock him down off his pride.

Saul, as he was initially called, was wallowing in spiritual blindness thinking that what he was doing was the right thing. He needed spiritual enlightenment and conviction; he needed his eyes to be open to spiritual realities and that was exactly what Christ gave to him on his way to Damascus.

The power of Jesus is awesome, when he encounters us, his power overshadows us and draws us to himself. When Saul encountered Jesus the power of Jesus was so great that it knocked him down and struck him with blindness, and at that moment Saul saw the emptiness in human power and affluence.

The conversion of Saul to Paul was a mystical experience that caused Paul great distress. And at the moment when his physical eyes were shut down, Christ opened his spiritual eyes.

We must learn to let go of our physical pride so that Christ can convince and save us from spiritual condemnation. Remember I said earlier that each time Christ encounters us, he does infuse spiritual graces and blessings into our souls. This was exactly what happened to Paul, and after his mystical encounter with Jesus, he had a full personal revelation of Jesus of whom he preached his message immediately his sight was restored.

The Thief at the Cross

This was another great encounter recorded in the Bible; the thief at the side of Jesus saw the

emptiness of this world and the emptiness of sin. In his torments and bitterness, he had no one else to look up to than the saving Jesus. The thief saw beyond the Christ whose hands were nailed on the cross; for saw the glorified Jesus who has the power to turn his pain to paradise.

The encounter between the thief at the side of Christ was a combination of a mystical and exoteric experience; his faith made him saw above the ordinary. For the other thief on the other side of Jesus, he faithlessness could not purchase an encounter for him. The lesson we can draw from this is that sometimes for us to experience an encounter with Christ requires faith.

At some other times, it is Christ who approaches us without prior approval from us like the case of Paul and the Woman at the well.

Your faith in Christ is what makes the difference; both thieves at the side had the last golden opportunity to witness heaven before death; one lost it as a result of faithlessness while the other got it through his faith.

Another lesson we can draw from this passage is that it is never too late to have a divine encounter with Jesus. All that is required is that we build up our faith and anchor unto him who alone can save us.

A common phenomenon that runs through the ministry of Christ was that he never rejected anyone that asked for his help even when he was in tight schedules, for example, the paralyzed man that was brought through the rooftop interrupted Christ's teaching yet Christ had to pause his message and attended to him. Similarly, when Peter saw him walking on water he asked if he could come up to him, Christ equally honored his request. Often times you see Jesus always ask those that requested for healing

"what do you want me to do for you?" There was always an open invitation for all who requested for help.

Unfortunately, we see the opposite attitude among most Christians who turn their back on their brethren when they ask for help. The thief asked for help even at the last moment when he almost lost it and Christ still gave it to him.

Another lesson we can draw is that encounters with Jesus are personal. We do not have the right to condemn anyone even when they sin; we can only encourage.

For some at the foot of the cross had already condemned the thief at the side of Jesus, yet he was saved. Christ does not condemn us, he always gives us the privilege to be saved. Look at the woman caught in adultery, and while others condemned her and wanted to stone her to death, Christ forgave her and gave her a second chance.

Mary Magdalene

The encounter between Mary Magdalene and Jesus after his resurrection was mystical like that of St Paul. Mary Magdalene was among the most loyal disciples of Jesus. She supported Jesus in his ministry (Luke 8:1-3) and she was also present at the foot of the cross when others fled and abandoned Jesus (Mark 15:40). Because of her love and loyalty for Jesus, she became the first witness to the resurrected Christ. Her encounter with Jesus after his resurrection was mystical because the Jesus she met was completely different from the one she used to know. She met the glorified Lord who also appeared to Paul on his way to Damascus.

Her conviction about Christ was so strong that when others fled and lost all hope because Jesus

was dead; she still decided to go over to the tomb, weeping and refusing to go away (John20:13).

Mary Magdalene was the first person to evangelize about Jesus after his resurrection because she would be the one who would break the message of the good news to the apostles. She was with Christ both in the good and difficult moments. She was always thankful for what Christ did for her by casting out seven demons from her soul.

Mary Magdalene has set a standard for us to follow, we are encouraged, therefore, to always stand for Jesus at all circumstances whether good or bad.

Bartimaeus

This blind man met Jesus on his way to Jericho, and when he heard that Jesus was passing by he began to shout at the top of his voice. Bartimaeus encounter with Jesus was radical because his op portunity was slim but he ensured he got hold of it by the expression of his faith. How often do we let go of opportunities as Christians because of lack of faith? Sometimes we let opportunities slip through our fingers because we lack faith.

Bartimaeus though he was physically blind his heart was not blind, he knew what he wanted; in fact, this man knew Jesus so well even though he was blind that he called him "Son of David." We must understand that the faith of this man grew only from hearing about Jesus, whereas some others who had sight to witness his miracles were faithless.

Bartimaeus refused to keep quiet for he knew this was his encounter and when others tried to shut him down he shouted the more loudly. How often do we allow others shut us down because we are scared of proclaiming Jesus to the world;

most of us don't want to be singled out from the crowd that we are for Jesus, instead we shy away from responsibilities.

Bartimaeus never allowed his weakness (blindness) to restrict him from accessing Jesus; instead, he used his strength (voice) to overcome his weakness and got what he wanted.

We can learn from Bartimaeus never to give up, we must be ready to rise above all odds and limitations and claim all our blessings. There will always be people around who would want to discourage us, but we should like Bartimaeus never allow them to discourage us. Similarly, when Christ asked Bartimaeus "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus requested that he wanted his sight restored. We have been blinded by sin, we should ask Jesus to restore our spiri tual sight and set us free from sin.

Your Personal Encounter

Like Peter, The Samaritan Woman, Paul, Mary Magdalene etc. we also have our stories and encounters with Jesus. However, we should ensure that these experiences should have a lasting effect on us, and be a testimony on our lips to draw others to Jesus.

CHAPTER TWO

The Call

In verse 29 of Mathew 14, Christ called Peter to come over to him on the water when Peter requested to come over. And in obedience to the call, he did the impossible by walking on water.

The call of God has been from the very beginning of creation when God called Adam in the Garden when he was hiding from God. Abraham was called, Moses, Jeremiah, Samuel, Gideon and the rest of the patriarch and prophets of old were called by God. In the New Testament Christ also called his apostles like Paul who had a radical encounter in his calling. The Woman of Samaria at well was called, Zacchaeus was called, in fact, Christ went further to give an open invitation when he said: "come unto me all who labor." Christ has called each one us to come to him and enjoy his divine providence.

There are basically two types of call, we have:

The Universal Call

God calls each one of us, giving us an open invitation to his kingdom, we can choose to accept his call or we can reject it. It's left for us to decide.

The Specific Call

Beyond the universal call, there is also the specific call. God sometimes chooses men from the crowd for a specific task. For example, God chose Moses as a liberator to the people of Israel. His call was quite different from Jeremiah or Ezekiel. The call of John the Baptist was specifically to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah and immediately he accomplished that, he left the scene. Peter was called as the apostle to the Jews while Paul was given the task of the Gentile community. Not all are called to be prophets or teachers.

When God calls us he gives us a specific task to accomplish and when we are able to accomplish such a task, it means we have lived out our purpose for which we were created. There are so many Christians who are yet to discover their purpose. Paul, for example, came to a realization of his purpose on his way to Damascus.

The Universal call to Holiness

It is important that we understand the call of God so that we don't get things mixed up. For example, when God called Samuel, at first he never understood the call so he went and secured understanding from Eli the priest who showed him the way out which was by 'listening'. Sometimes we fail to listen when God calls us, our minds are distracted towards the affairs and cares of this world and we fail to see our purpose. The fact that a person is wealthy does not mean he has attained his purpose; because some do get rich from dubious means. Similarly, the fact that a person is poor does not also mean they are living a life of purpose. The key to achieving the purpose that God has designed for us is to listen to his direction through his words and our daily encounter with our brothers and sisters.

God has called each one of us to live a life of holiness free from the corruption of sin and death. He wants us to be like him so he could radiate his power through us.

Discipleship

We are called to be followers of Jesus who share in his mission of evangelization; bringing hope to the downtrodden. We are called to build our relationship and loyalty to Christ who has called us to himself. We are called to partake in the mission statement of Christ in Luke 4:18 which is to bring the Good News to those who haven't heard of it, the proclaim liberty and gives sight to the blind by our attitude as Christians which can serve as an eye opener to those not yet converted.

Proclaiming the Good News

Christ has given us a mandate to go and preach the message of salvation to every people; this mandate he has given to us all; there several ways you can preach the gospel; you can be directly involved in evangelization or you can support those who go out to preach by words of encouragement or financial support aimed at bringing the good news to all people.

To be Charitable

Christ made it clear that whatever we do to those who are in need financially, health wise or moral support, that we do unto him. If we support them we support Christ, if we neglect them we neglect Christ. We should learn to be kind and generous to our brothers and sisters. Many have died because there was no one to support them when they were sick.

CHAPTER THREE

The Bold Step of Faith

To break even in your spiritual life as a Christian, you need faith. In verse 29 of Matthew 14, Peter took the bold step of faith and he did the impossible of walking on water. Note this! Peter was standing on solid earth but his bold step made him left the earth that was solid and moved into water that was liquid and unstable, however with faith and focus on Jesus he did not sink.

Today many Christians are scared of taking a bold step in their lives, they are clouded with indecision. To achieve measurable progress, we must be ready to take a bold step of faith, we must be ready to move off our comfort zone and achieve a purpose. Peter stepped off the comfort of solid earth that could hold his weight and keep him firm and stable and moved into water that is unstable, yet with Jesus, he had nothing to worry about and the water became as solid as earth.

Just like Jesus called Peter to come over to meet him on the water he is calling you today. Are you ready to take a bold step? Are you ready like Peter to move off your comfort zone and step on waters? The choice is yours.

Requires Courage

To take a bold step requires courage, it was courage that made Peter walked on the water and moved towards Jesus. A bold step means moving from one stage or condition to another. Let's say for example you are single, to get married requires that you convince yourself that you are ready for marriage; the next step that follows is that you need to take a bold step and get married. Off course you are already aware that marriage is not a bed of roses, but with the right mindset, you can make your marriage work. It follows therefore that to achieve progress requires courage.

Most Christians lack the courage of making sacrifices for Jesus, they love to be at the comfort zone, but I want you to bear in mind that for you to make progress requires courage.

Looking unto Jesus

Jesus is our utmost priority as Christians; we must focus on him to achieve the purpose for which we were made. When Peter focused on Jesus, he began to do the impossible by walking on water, but the moment he became distracted and looked sideward, he began to sink. How often do we try to do it all alone? The hand of Christ is wide open to assist us but we prefer to look at the winds. We must look unto Jesus to be saved; salvation is nowhere else but Jesus. When we look at the wind, all we see is a terror, disappointments, and fear but in Jesus, there is life and hope.

Stepping Forward

Every Christian should have the mind to step forward and make progress in their spiritual life. Peter took courage and stepped forward towards Jesus and he walked on water while the other apostles were on land, this is a sign of courage and a sign of leadership. We must step forward

in our Christian vocation; we should look into our lives to see if we are making advancement in holiness and faith, now is the time to step forward, now is the time to make progress.

Overcoming the Impossible

We can overcome every obstacle by trusting in Christ Jesus. Life is full of impossibilities, but with Jesus, we can conquer the impossible. With Jesus, we can overcome every trials and tribulation that come our way. Peter overcame the impossibility by walking on water because he focused on Jesus. We too can do the same and overcome our challenges if we focus on Christ.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Trials

There is always the moments of trial in the life of every true believer, the patriarchs and the prophets of old had their moments of trials. The apostles of Jesus were not left out; rather, they were persecuted by the Jews. In fact, Christ himself had his trying moments.

In Mathew 14:30 when Peter took the bold step and began walking on water, trials emerged through the winds and this caught the attention of Peter and he lost focus on Christ of whom he was looking unto and he began to sink.

Each time you decide to take a bold step in life, ensure to be ready for challenges or obstacles that may want to pull you down. When you are armed with this awareness, you will easily overcome any challenge that comes your way.

Similarly, each time we lose focus on Jesus and allow the trials and worries of this world to take our attention from Jesus; we would sink as Peter did.

Sometimes, God sends trials to come our way so he can teach us some precepts about his kingdom. Therefore, we should not see trials as omen or misfortune; however, when we are faced with

challenges, we should motivate ourselves and build up our faith to overcome such tribulations.

Finally, when Peter saw that the wind (trials) was overcoming him that he began to sink, in verse 30 of Mathew 14 he called for help that Jesus should save him from perishing. In the same way, we should always beckon on Jesus to help us overcome our trials.

From the World

Our world is a fallen race clothed in sin, but we the children of God have been saved from the world through baptism by the blood of Jesus. Therefore we are in the world but we are not of the world. Our standard as God's children is completely different from the standards of this world. The world will always try to distract us from following Jesus. The things of the world are really attractive but they are all passing away.

When the devil tempted Jesus, he showed the wealth of the world and demanded that Christ should worship him so he could have access to the wealth. However, Christ the Son of God is greater than Satan and so he could not subdue Jesus.

We as children of God should not be carried away by the enticement of this world but we should focus on Jesus who has come to give us salvation.

From the Flesh

Apart from the world, we also wrestle with the flesh, our bodies have weak tendencies that sometimes lure us into sin and neglect Jesus whose arm is wide open. When Peter began to focus on the wind, he started sinking. Similarly, we would sink if our eyes are not fixed on Jesus whom alone can help us.

For us to overcome the flesh we need the Holy Spirit to help counsel and strengthen us. We need his power to set us free from the power of the flesh.

From the Evil One

Scripture rightly states that we are fighting a spiritual battle and that the devil is roaming around looking for souls to devour. We need to be armed with the necessary weapons to overcome his tricks and attacks. One such weapon that we need is faith. Once our faith is built on Christ the devil will find it difficult to penetrate us. We also need the word of God, so we can be informed about what Christ demands from us his children.

From Difficult Moments

Trials and temptations sometimes show up as difficult challenges. It could appear as health challenges, financial challenges or moral chal lenges. To overcome whatever challenge that we may encounter we need Jesus. Let us stretch out our hands and request for help from Jesus when we are faced with difficult challenges.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Saving Lord

The hands of Jesus are wide open and ever ready to accept all who are willing to come back to him. When Peter began to sink in verse 30 of Mathew 14 Christ did not abandon him because of his doubt, rather, when he cried out, Jesus stretched out his arm in verse 31 and saved him.

Jesus is our saving Lord who saves even when we fail; he continues to stretch out his arms saying "Take my hand."

What happens when we take the hands of Jesus?

When we take his hands, he draws us from the waters that try to submerge us. The waters of sin, failure, disease, fear, loss, misfortune, spiritual blindness, backwardness, broken heart, poverty, hatred, discouragement, anger, anxiety, malice, and lust.

When Christ draws us, he draws into baptism (rising above the waters) and gives us his Holy Spirit that revives us and gives us Joy, peace, restoration, success, holiness, spiritual insight, fruitfulness in the spirit, discernment, revival, chastity, and reconciliation.

Rescues us from Temptation

Jesus continues to rescue us from sin, for this is why he came. In Lord's Prayer, he asks the Father to forgive us our sins and shield us from temptation. Christ is very much aware that we are weak and so he is always patient with us and wants us to come out of our sins. Peter had the temptation from the wind but Christ rescued him by drawing him out of the water. There are temptations surrounding us every day, we need to focus on Jesus for us to overcome all temptations.

Draws us to Himself

Christ drew Peter from the water towards himself so that Peter is saved. The same way Christ draws us to himself and rescues us from sin. He declared that he would draw all men to himself; when he is lifted up. This is the power of the cross and the power of the resurrection. When Christ rose from the dead, he sets man free from captivity and death; the windows of heaven that was closed against man became wide open and the blessings of God rained down on man. Similarly, the curtain of the temple was torn from top to the bottom meaning, Christ has paved the way through the power of the cross for us to have access to the Father.

Christ became broken in order that we become whole, he died that we might live, he bore our sins that we may be free and by his stripes, we are healed.

Gives us Eternal Life

Christ came for us to have eternal life. He is the bread that came down from heaven and whoever eats of this bread would have eternal life. Christ is our source of life for he freely gives us his spirit. We gain eternal life by focusing on Jesus through faith. Eternal life is the life God has destined for us his children, our final homeland to be with God for all eternity.

Eternal life begins here on earth and is fully accomplished in heaven when we unite with the saints and the angels singing to the glory of God. We are destined people, a people of hope, our homeland is heaven but we continue to groan here on earth until our destination is accomplished.

Eternal life here on earth and in heaven can be likened to a woman who is pregnant. We are pregnant here on earth with eternal life that has been given to us through Christ death on the cross. We give birth in our homeland heaven where we fully experience the power of the resurrection in heaven.

Restores our Hope

Jesus is our hope, for who save us if Christ has not come. Christ brought the message of hope to all mankind, through him we have for eternal life. He declared in Luke 4:18 that he has come to restore hope to those who are downtrodden. Let us focus on Jesus as Peter did, so his light will continue to shine on us and his spirit will continue to revive us.

Conclusion

Thank you so much for reading this book, and I say to you congratulation for Jesus is with you and you need not be afraid. He has conquered death in your life. Thank you once again, but also I would be grateful if you share this message of hope to someone out there who might need a touch from the Lord by recommending this book, also I would advise that you check out my other titles, thank you once again and God bless you.

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