

## Quiet Time Devotional for 7/3/08

### Insights on prayer

Bill Moyers served as press secretary to President Lyndon Johnson, who referred to him as “ my Baptist preacher ” and often called on him to “ give thanks for the meal. ” On one occasion, the president, who was having difficulty hearing, interrupted him in the middle of his prayer. “Louder, Bill! I can’t hear you.” Moyers replied, “ I wasn’t talking to you, Mr. President. “

This humorous story illustrates a very sound Biblical principle and that is to always be aware that when we are praying we are speaking with God who created the universe. No, that doesn’t mean we need to start praying in King James language. However, it does mean that we need to be focused on God and His Son Jesus.

*Matthew 14:22-33*

*“Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves, for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, it is a ghost, and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, take courage, it is I; do not be afraid. Peter said to Him, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. And He said, come. And peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, Lord save me. Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, you of little faith, why did you doubt. When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, You are certainly God’s Son.*

#### Life Application

When Peter focused on Jesus, he began to do what only Jesus could do. When he focused on himself, he could see the perilous situation that he was in and he began to be in serious trouble. How can we practice the kind of focus that produces a noticeable difference in our lives? Today and each day during our quiet time ask God to use prayer and

**scriptures to enable you to look closely at the face of Jesus. Let Him help you fully realize all that He has done for you and on your behalf. Ask god to give you a sense of just how great His love is for you. You'll still face stormy times when things don't go according to your plans or when thing clamor all around you that need to be attended to immediately. But instead of focusing on the furor, as Peter did, focus your thoughts on Jesus. Thank Him that He is in control. Let Him help you to walk on the waters of your life.**

**Thought for the day**

**When we allow God to be the center of our attention, serving Him becomes the routine around which all our tasks revolve.**