



- You Follow Me!
- Walking by Faith

For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Hebrews 10:37-39, NT p. 388

- Hebrews 10:37-39 (ESV) 37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.
- Faith pleases God!
- Counts as righteousness.

For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Hebrews 10:37-39, NT p. 388

- Danger if we shrink back
 - withdrawal, retreat, concealment
- Destroyed

For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but **my righteous one shall live by faith**, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have **faith and preserve their souls**.

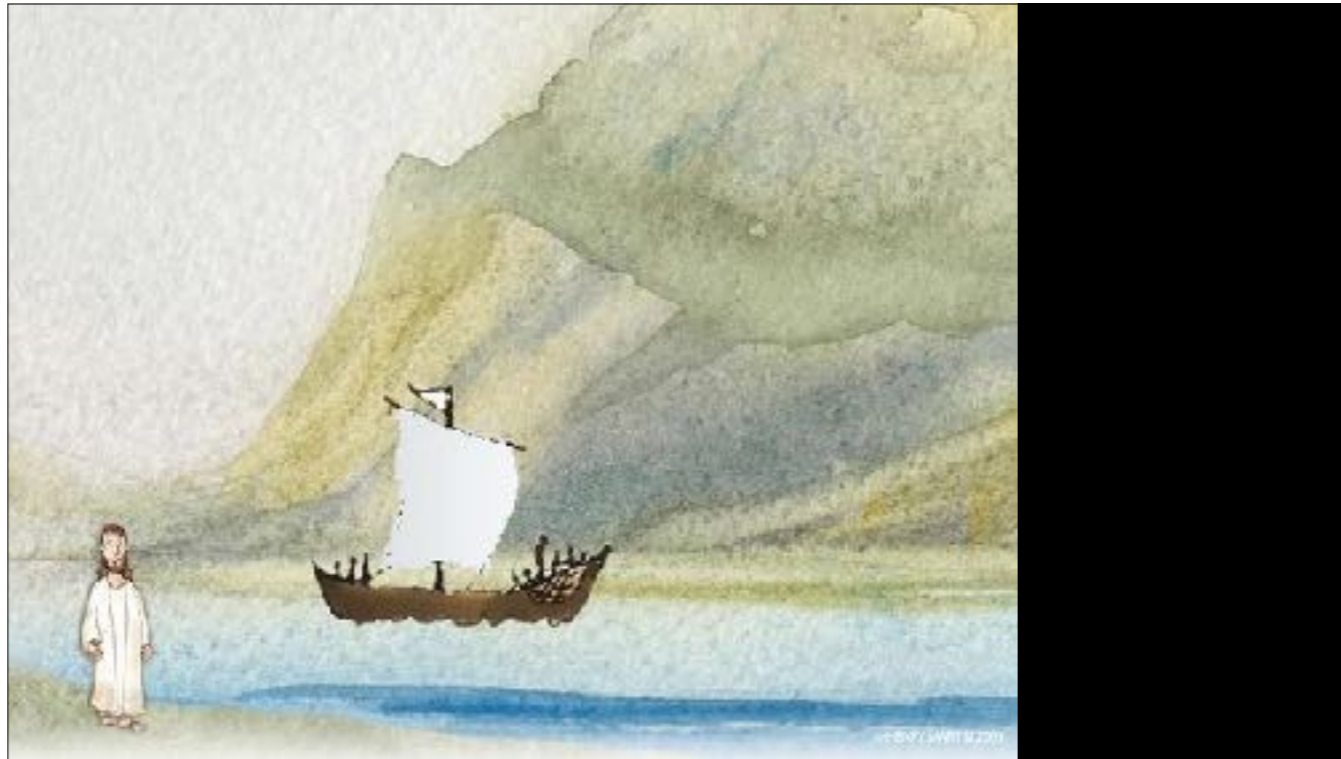
Hebrews 10:37-39, NT p. 388

- Contrast
- LIVE by faith!
- preserve your soul.

for we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7, NT p. 311

- 2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) for we walk by faith, not by sight.
- This is not a contradiction
 - Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen. (Substance, evidence)



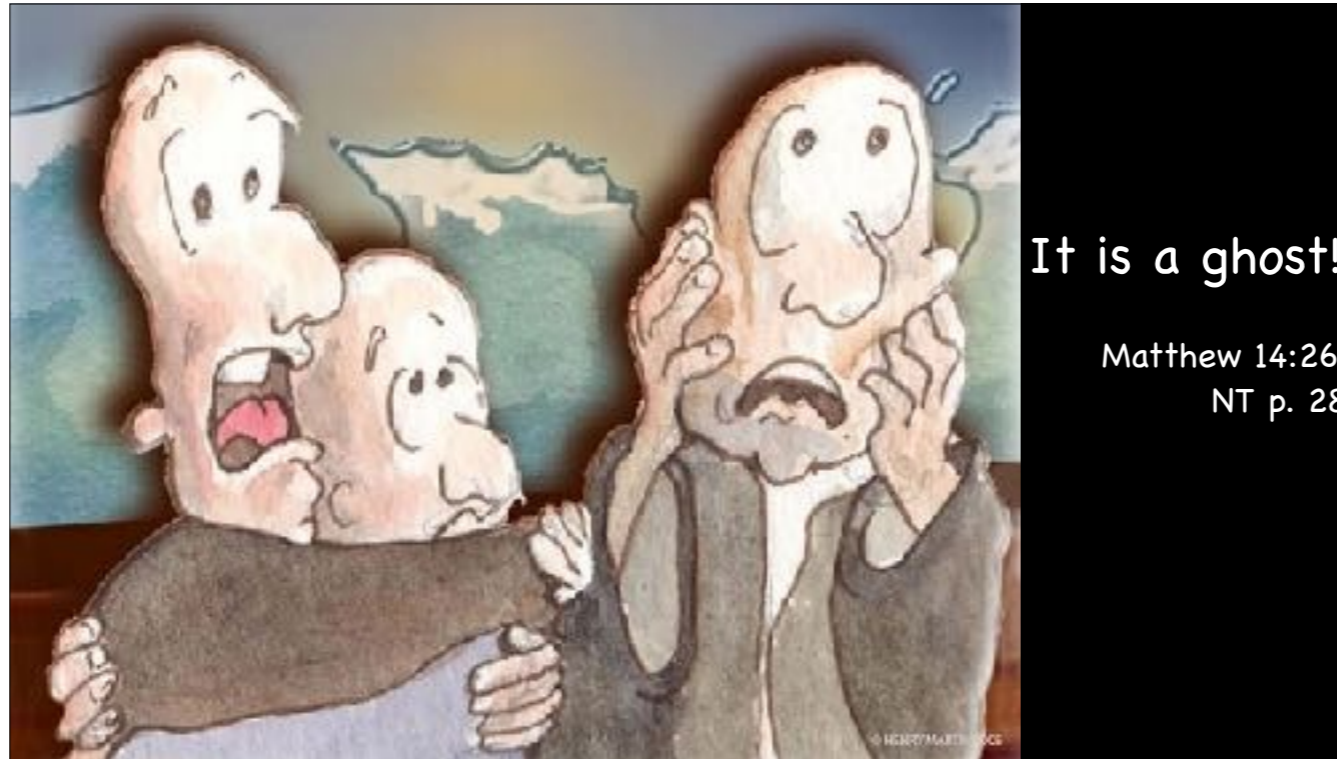
- Matthew 14:22-23 (ESV) 22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,



- Matthew 14:24 (ESV) but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.



- Matthew 14:25 (ESV) And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. (3 am - 6 am)



- Matthew 14:26 (ESV) But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.
- What else would they think?
- People are more dense than water... we sink.



- Matthew 14:27 (ESV) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”
- Would this be convincing to you?
- Would you stop being afraid?



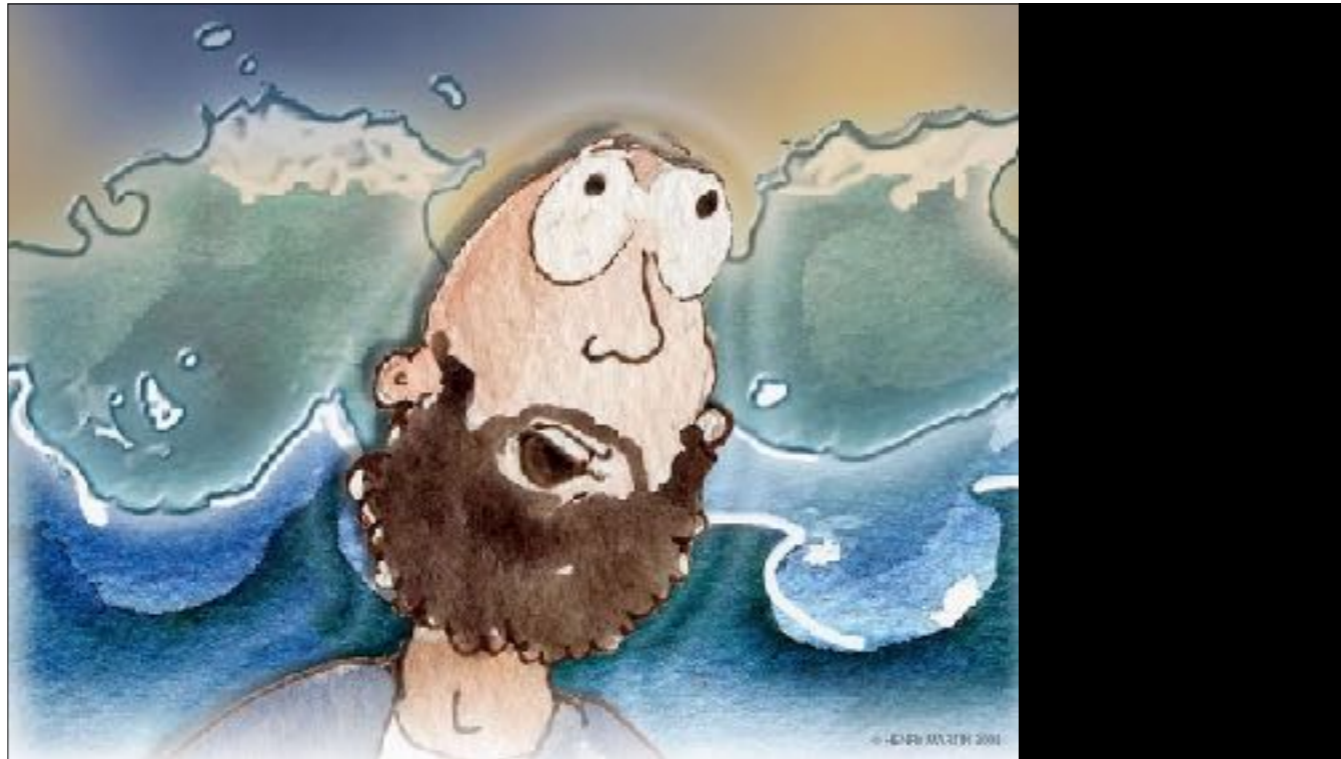
- Matthew 14:28 (ESV) And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."
- Would you ever think of this?
- Peter wanted to be with Jesus!
 - IF it is you...
 - But this is a demand for extraordinary evidence... it's a weak faith.



- Matthew 14:29 (ESV) He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.



- Matthew 14:29: So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.
- Wow!!!
 - People jumping out of airplanes with parachutes.
 - Walking on water, in a storm!
 - This is great faith ... and is focused completely on Jesus
 - Trust!



- Matthew 14:30 (ESV) But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink
- Saw wind ... afraid ... beginning to sink
- Fear
 - not just imagination, but real reason to be afraid.
 - In the walk of faith
 - What causes me to stumble?



Lord, save me!

Matthew 14:30,
NT p. 28

- Matthew 14:30 he cried out, "Lord, save me."
- This is GREAT faith.
 - when things became difficult and overwhelming
 - He still cried out to Jesus
 - Knew his only hope was Jesus
 - There's no "if" now!



O you of
little faith,
why did you
doubt?

Matthew 14:31,
NT p. 28

- Matthew 14:31 (ESV) 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
- Little faith ... why?
 - Trust, but fear: sinking.



O you of
little faith,
why did you
doubt?

Matthew 14:31,
NT p. 28

- Jesus smiling!
 - rebuking ... yes.
 - But Peter called out to him.
 - Faith pleases Jesus!!!



- Matthew 14:32-33 (ESV) 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

for we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7, NT p. 311



- This example of Peter is typical of each of us.
- Walk of faith is not easy.
- What spurs me to keep following Jesus?
 - Especially in improbable and difficult circumstances?

for we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7, NT p. 311



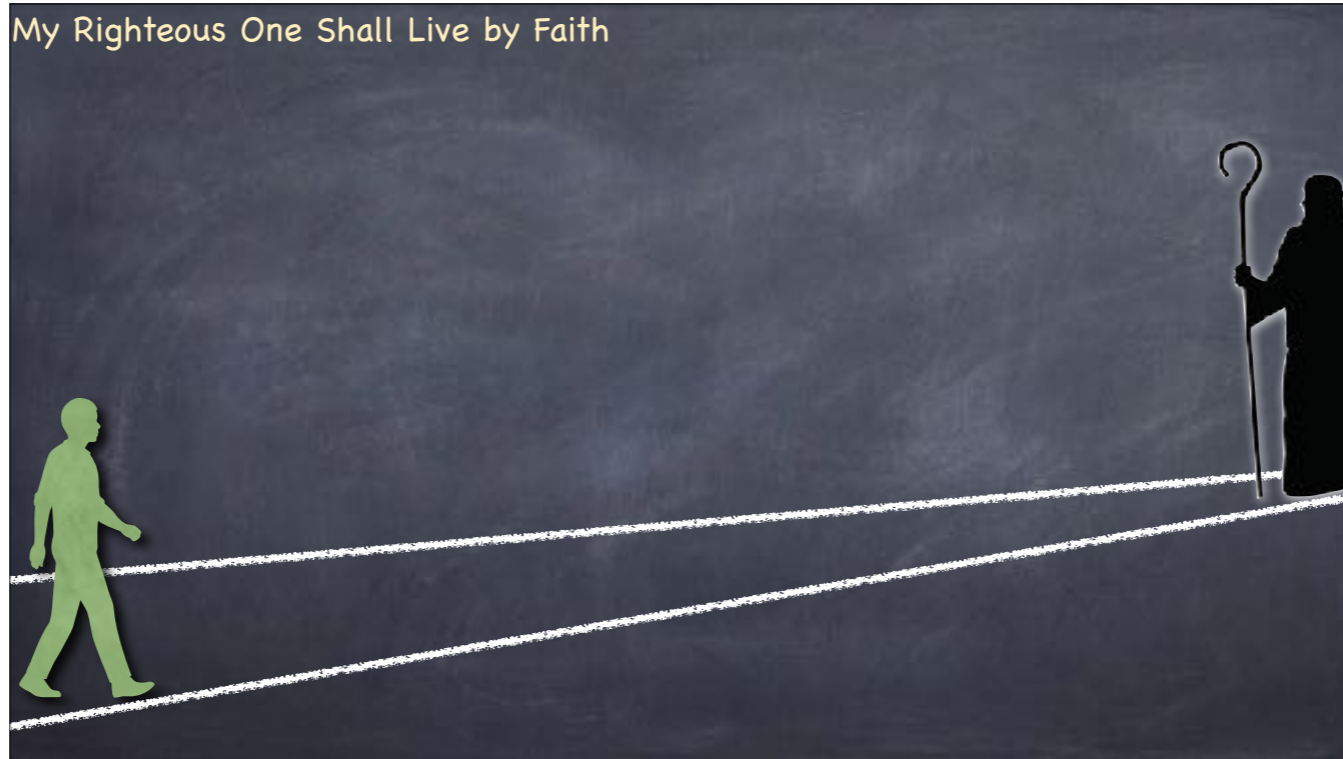
- What are the stumbling blocks (very real) that distract us?
- Look at other examples in Peter's life...
 - See that faith changes your life completely!

For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but **my righteous one shall live by faith**, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have **faith and preserve their souls**.

Hebrews 10:37-39, NT p. 388

- LIVE by faith!
- preserve your soul.

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith



- Matthew 4:18-20: While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “**Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

fisherman



- fisherman: day to day work; day to day getting by; responsibilities (wife, MIL).
- Faith changed Peter's life!!!

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

Follow me and I will
make you fishers of men.

fisherman



- And he said to them, “**Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
- What a change in perspective...
 - from daily work to an eternal view
 - from fish to men.

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

Follow me and I will
make you fishers of men.

fisherman



- Luke 5:1-11: On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

Follow me and I will
make you fishers of men.

fisherman



- And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."
- Fear
 - one of the great stumbling blocks of walking by faith
 - Peter feared the waves... began to sink

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

Follow me and I will
make you fishers of men.

fisherman



- Peter could have feared what would happen to family... chosen not to follow Jesus
- Peter feared when challenged that he knew Jesus after He was arrested: Three times he denied Jesus.
 - Matthew 26:69-75

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

Follow me and I will
make you fishers of men.

fisherman



left everything

fear



- And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

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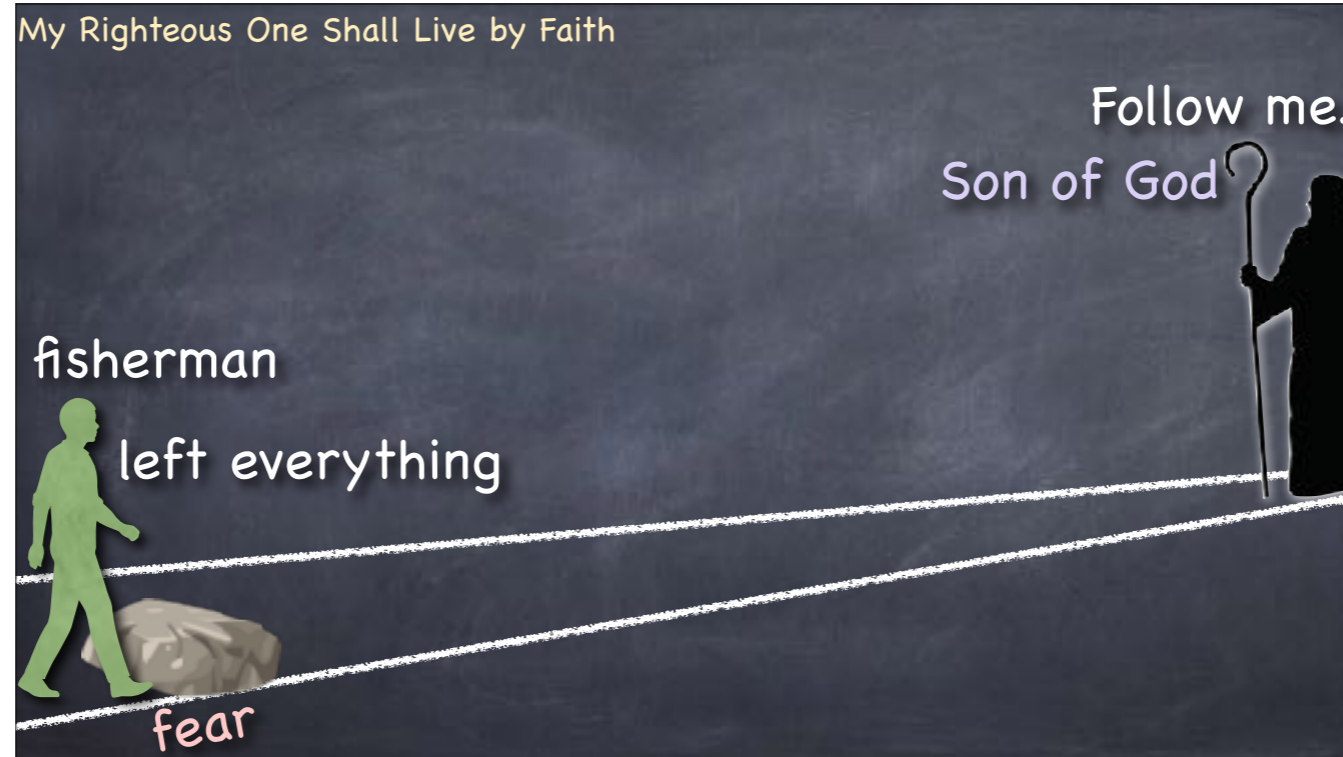
My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

Follow me.

fisherman
left everything
fear



- Seeing Jesus for who He is
 - Not just a man, teacher, or prophet
- Luke 5:8: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."



- Matthew 14:33 (ESV) And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

Follow me.
Son of God
Christ

fisherman
left everything
fear



- Matthew 16:16 (ESV) Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

Follow me.

Son of God

Christ

Holy One of God

fisherman

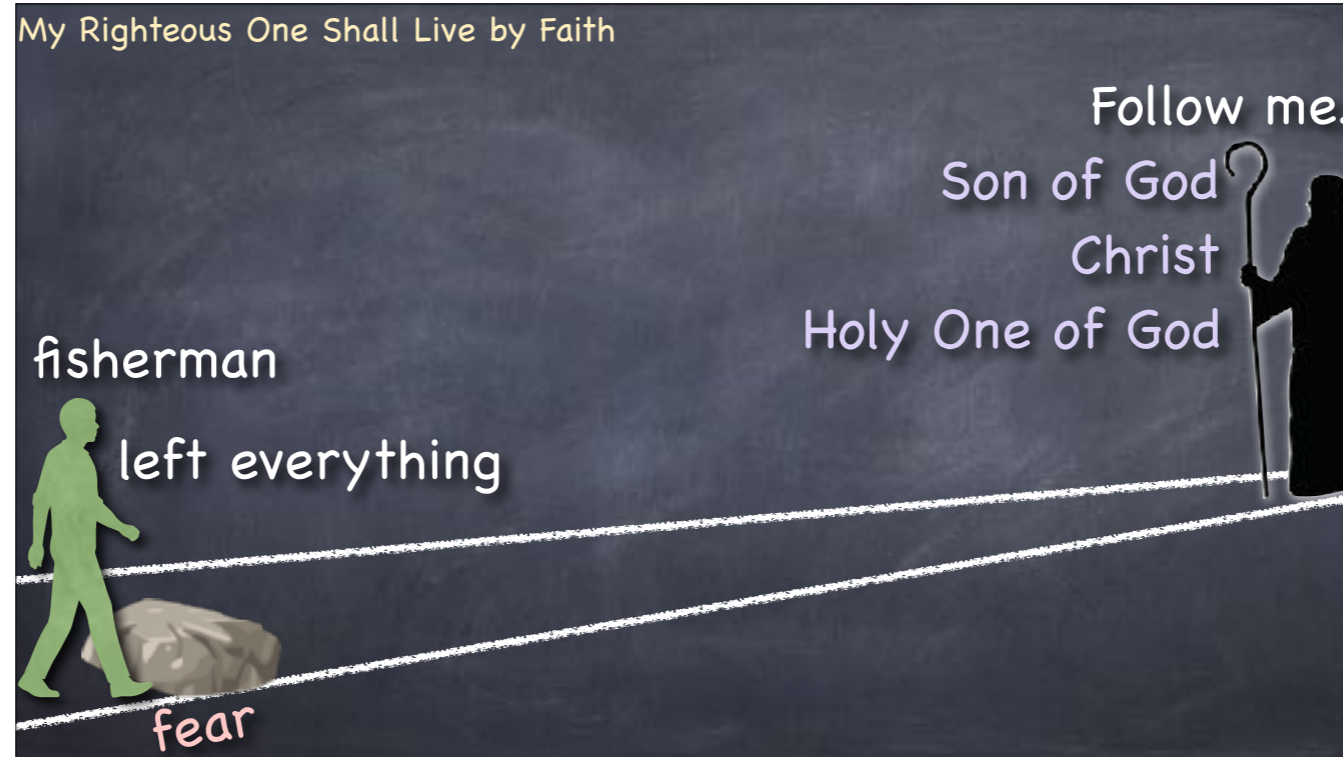


left everything

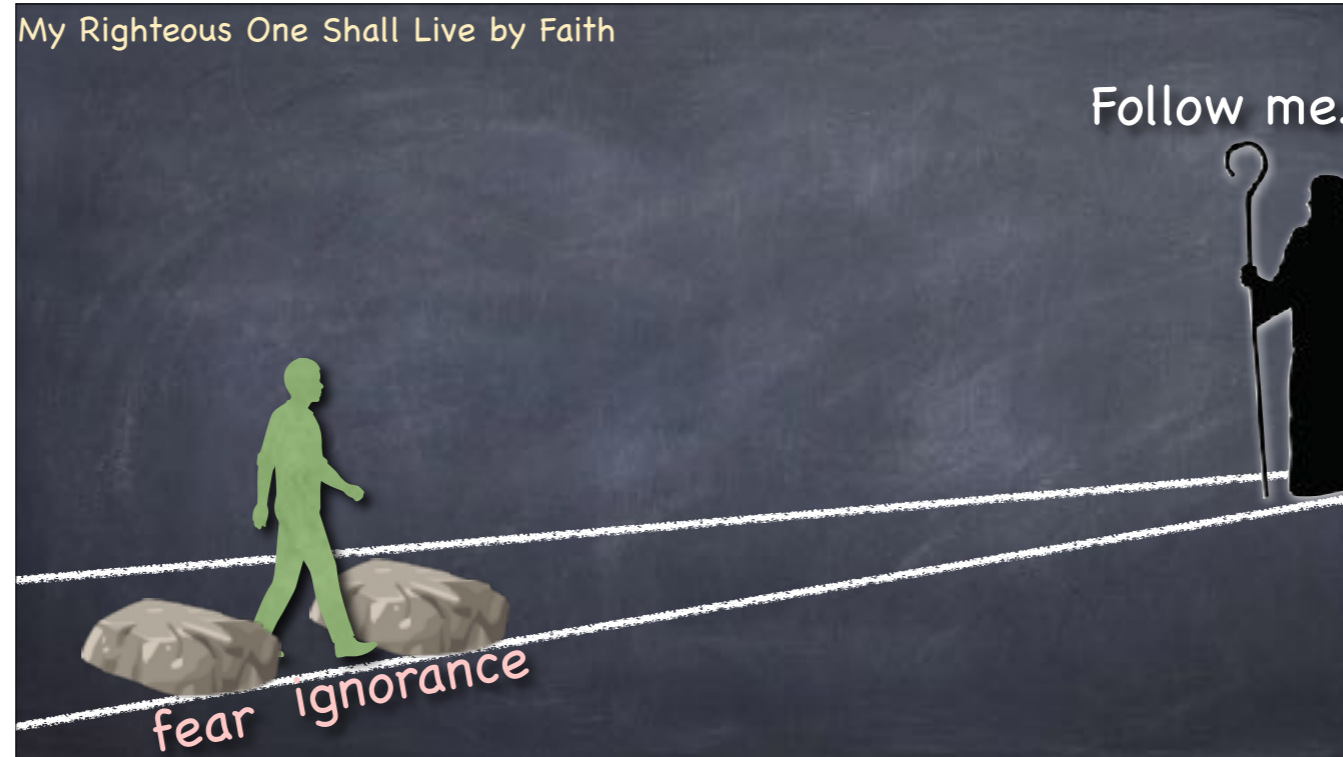
fear



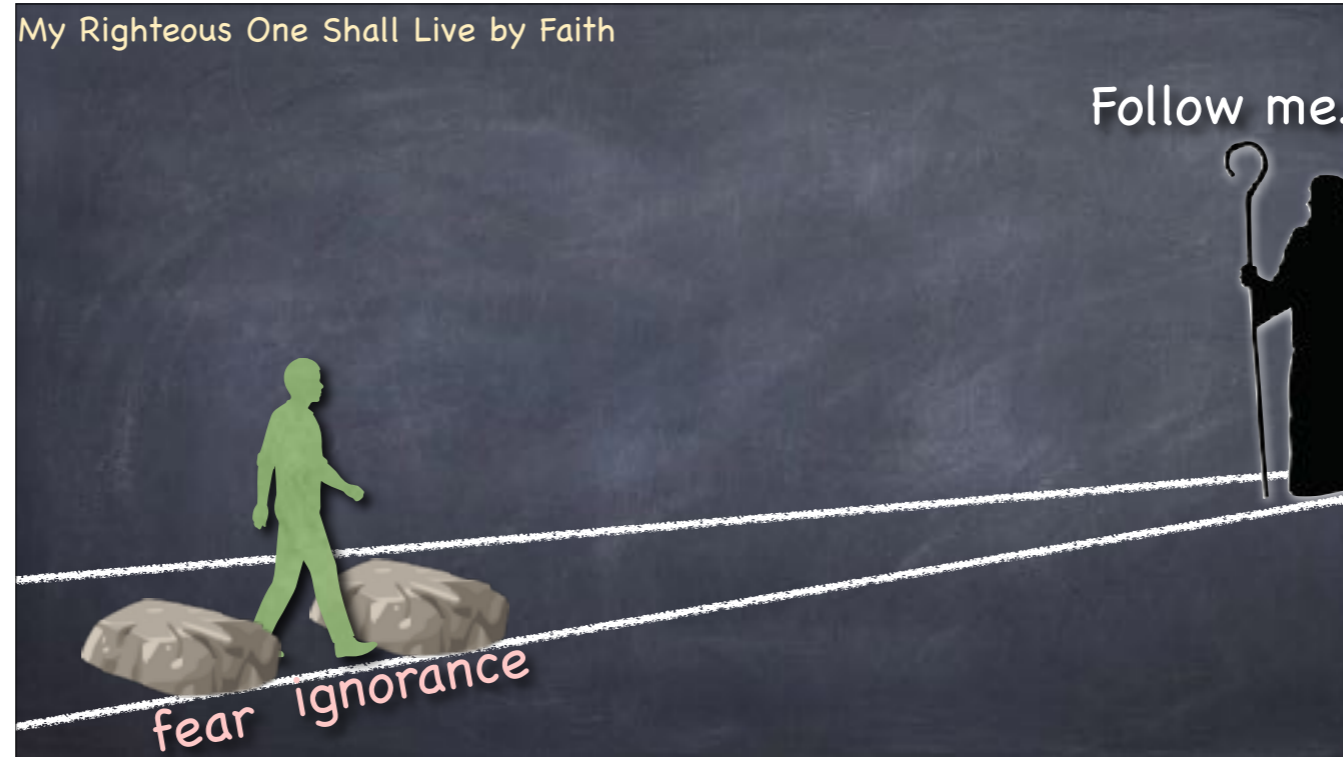
- John 6:68-69 (ESV) 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”



- How did Peter know?
 - John 14:10-11 (ESV) 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The **words** that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his **works**. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the **works** themselves.



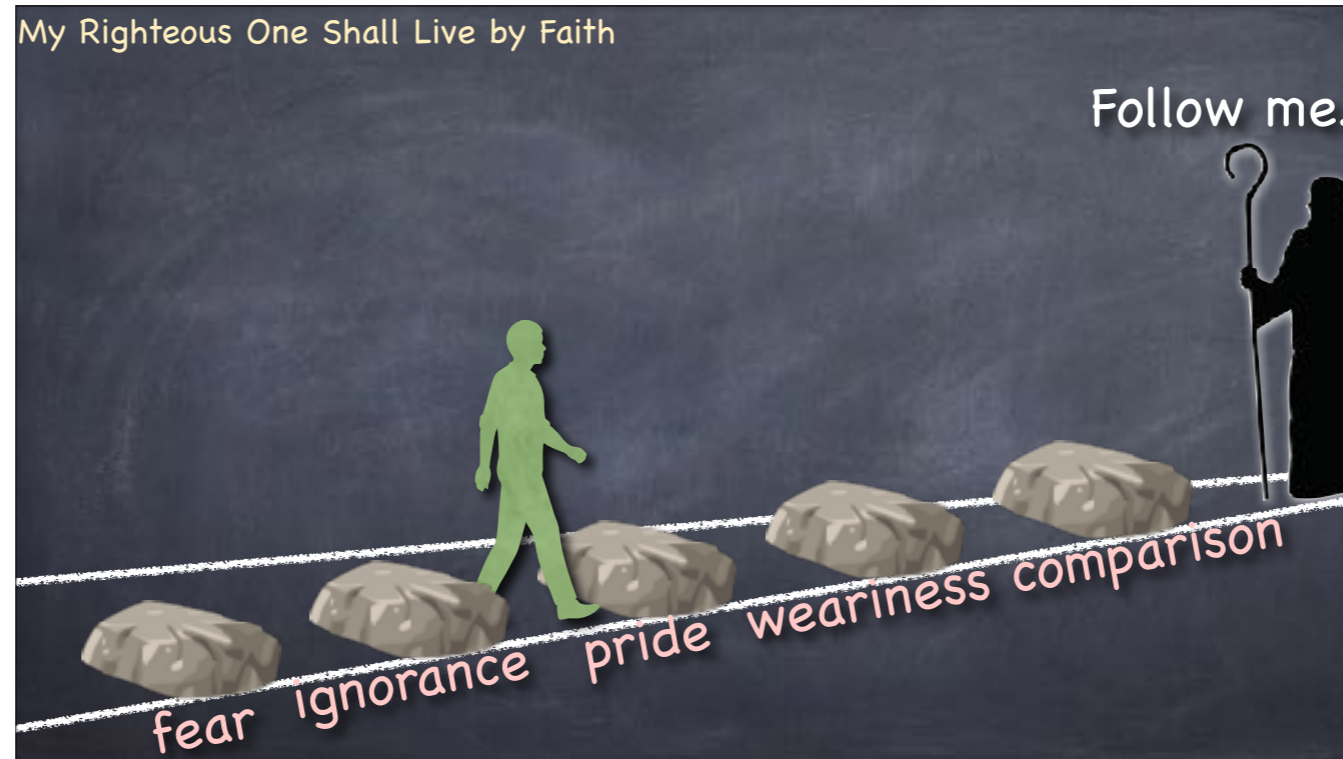
Matthew 16:21-23 (ESV) 21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to **rebuke** him, saying, "**Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.**"



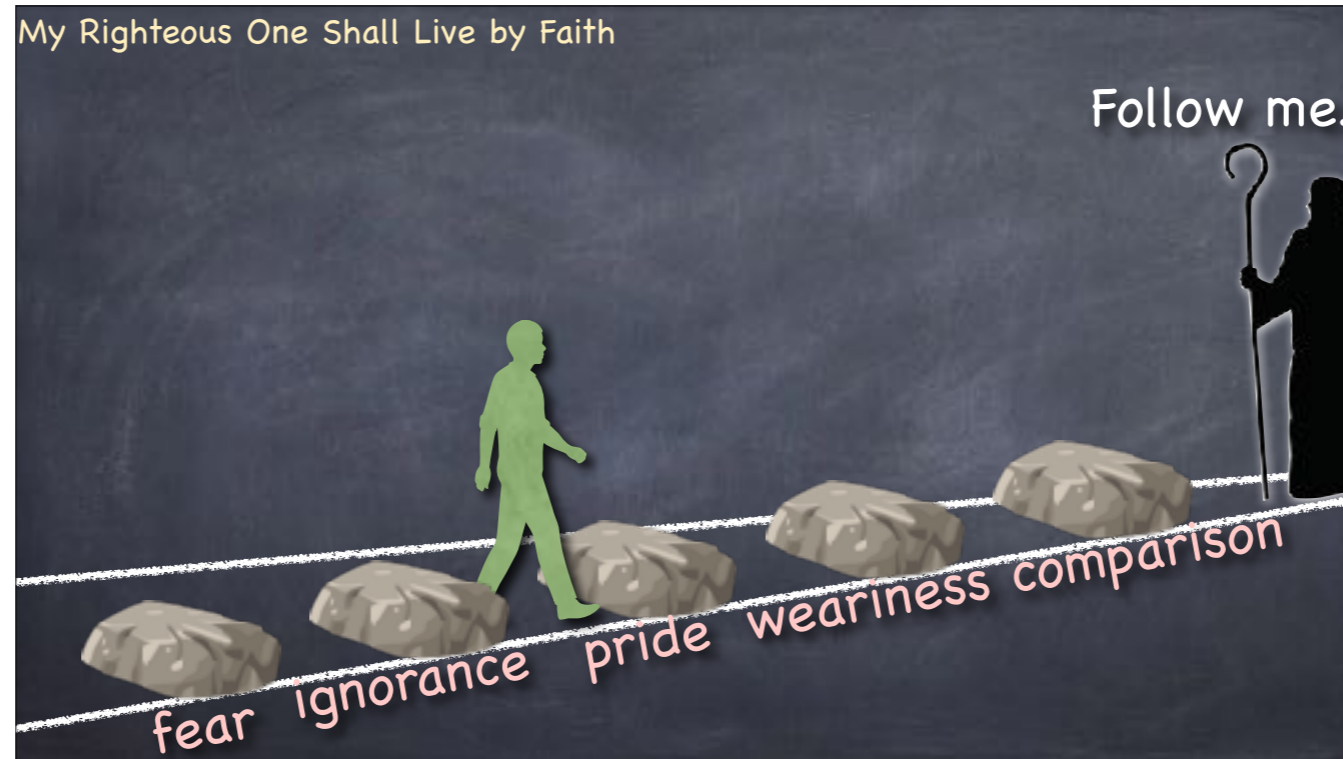
23 But he turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”**



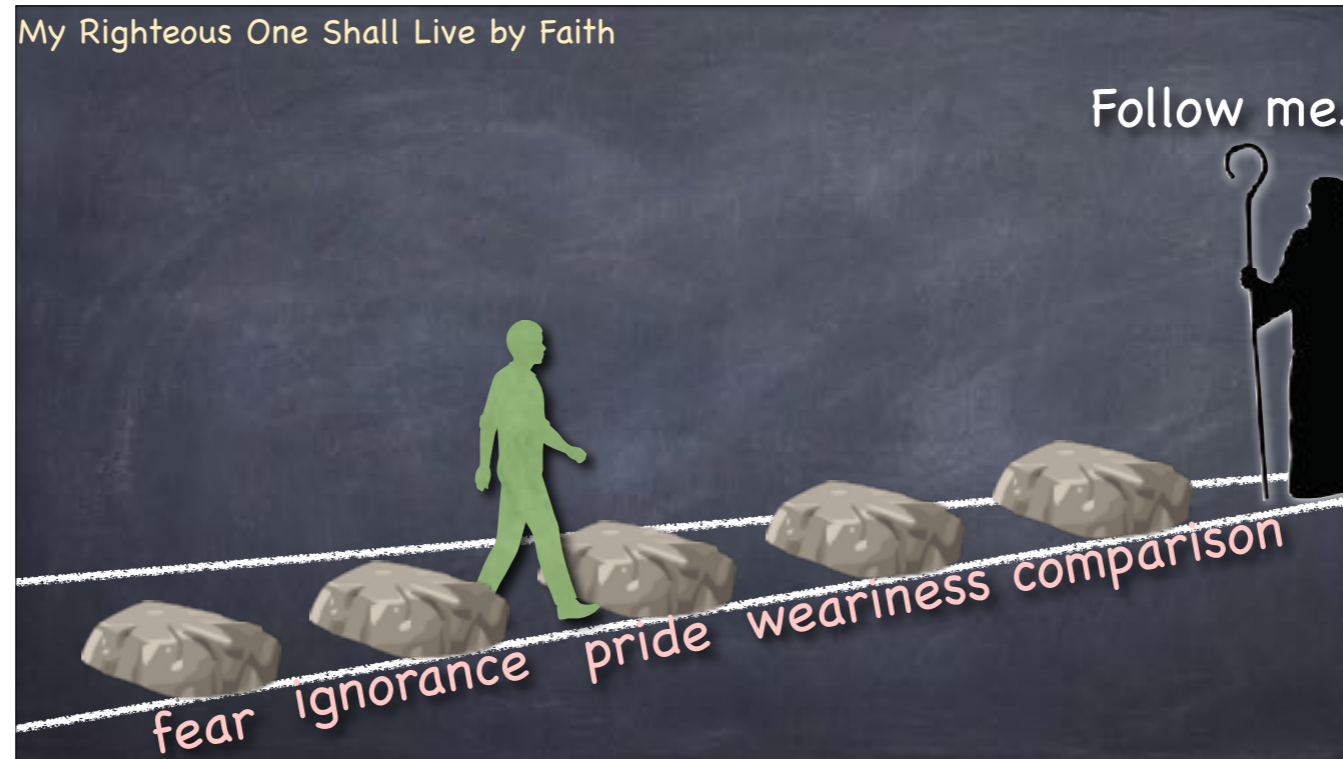
Matthew 26:33-35 (ESV) 33 Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." 35 Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.



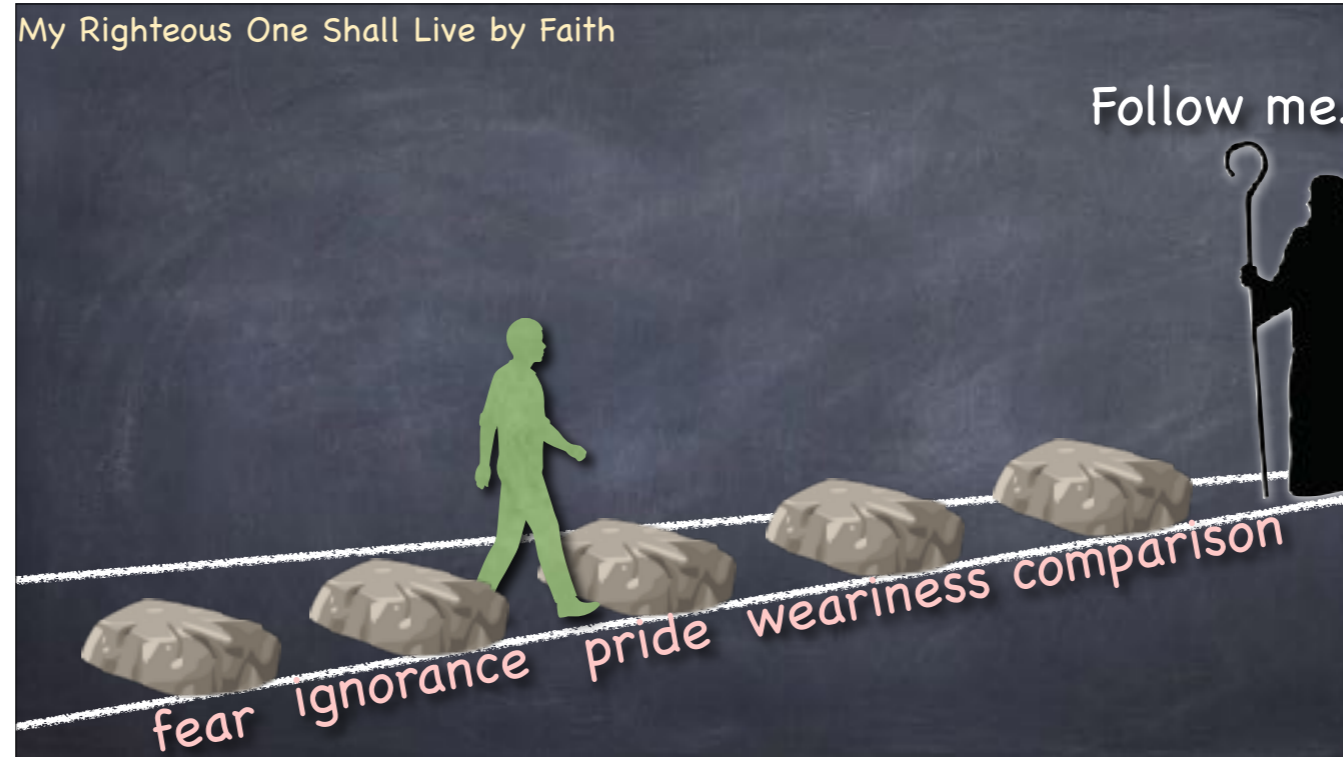
Luke 22:31-34 (ESV) 31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but **I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.** And when you have **turned again, strengthen your brothers.**"



33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." 34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."



John 13:8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."



Matthew 26:69-75: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.



Did Peter's faith fail?

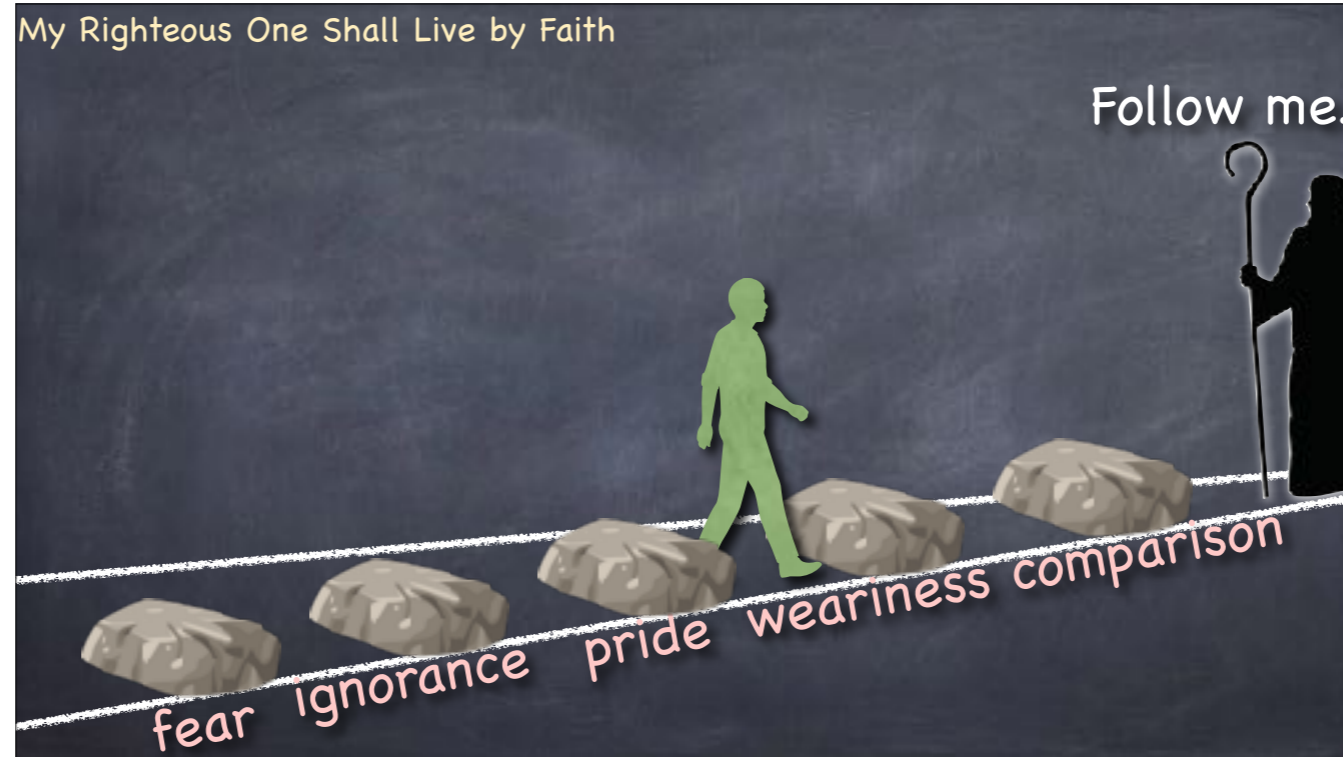
With denial, you might say yes!

But I say no.... He turned back!

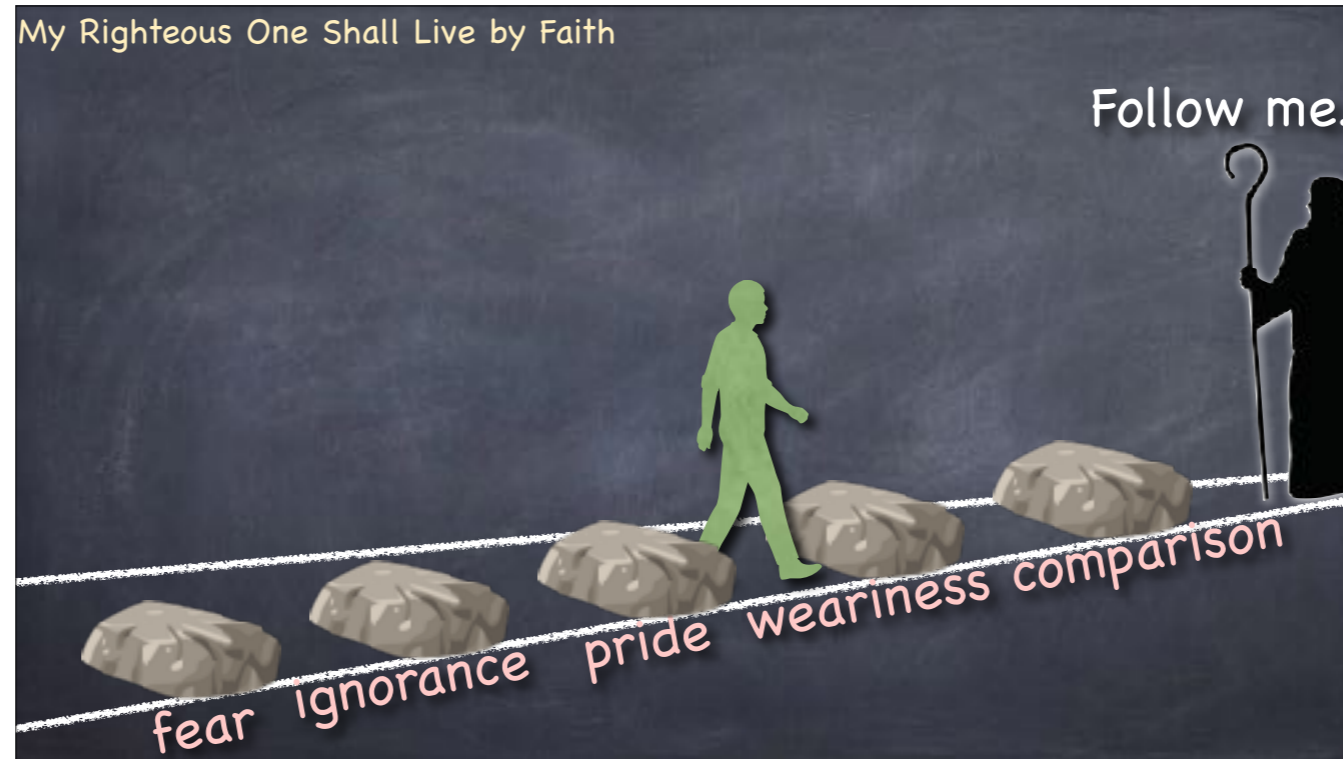
He remembered Jesus

He wept

He strengthened his brethren.



Matthew 26:38-41 (ESV) 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; **remain here, and watch with me.**" 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."



40 And he came to the disciples and found them **sleeping**. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. **The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**"



John 21:15-25 (ESV) 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" 21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"



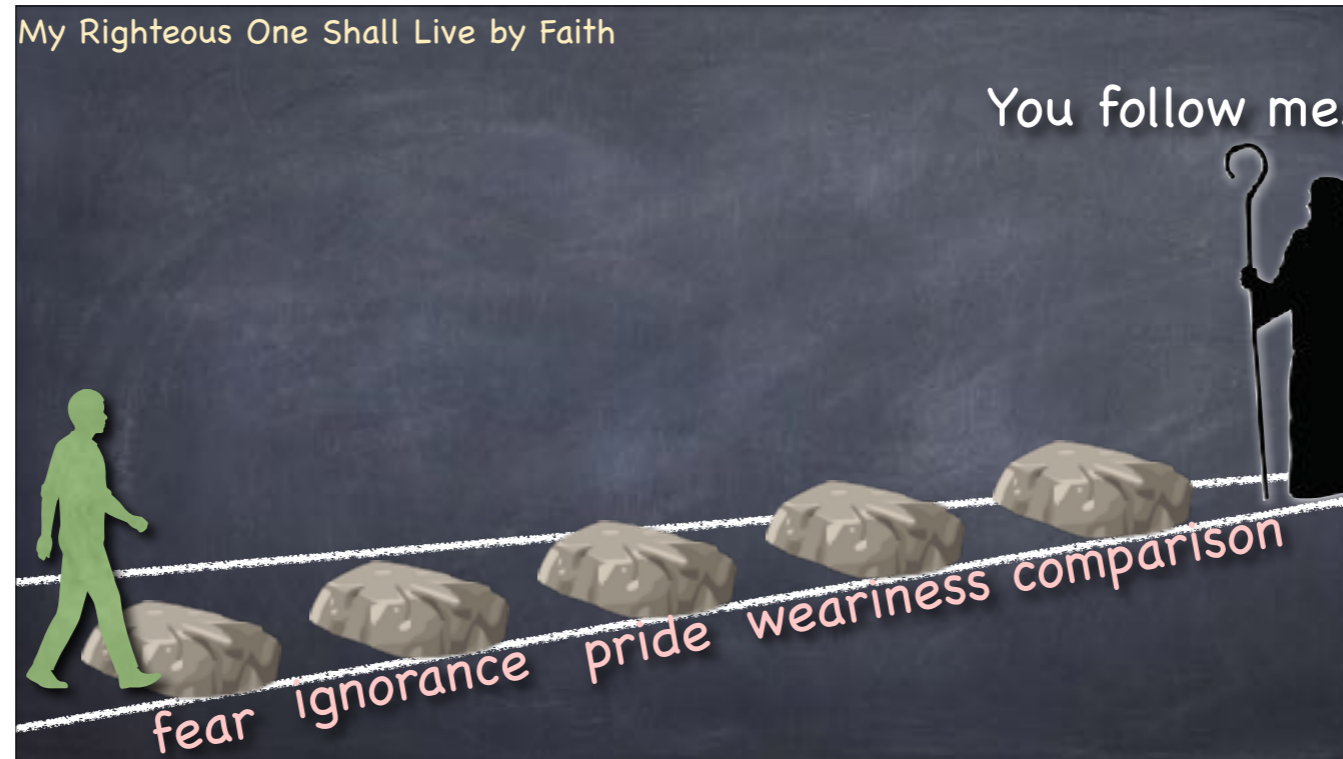
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My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

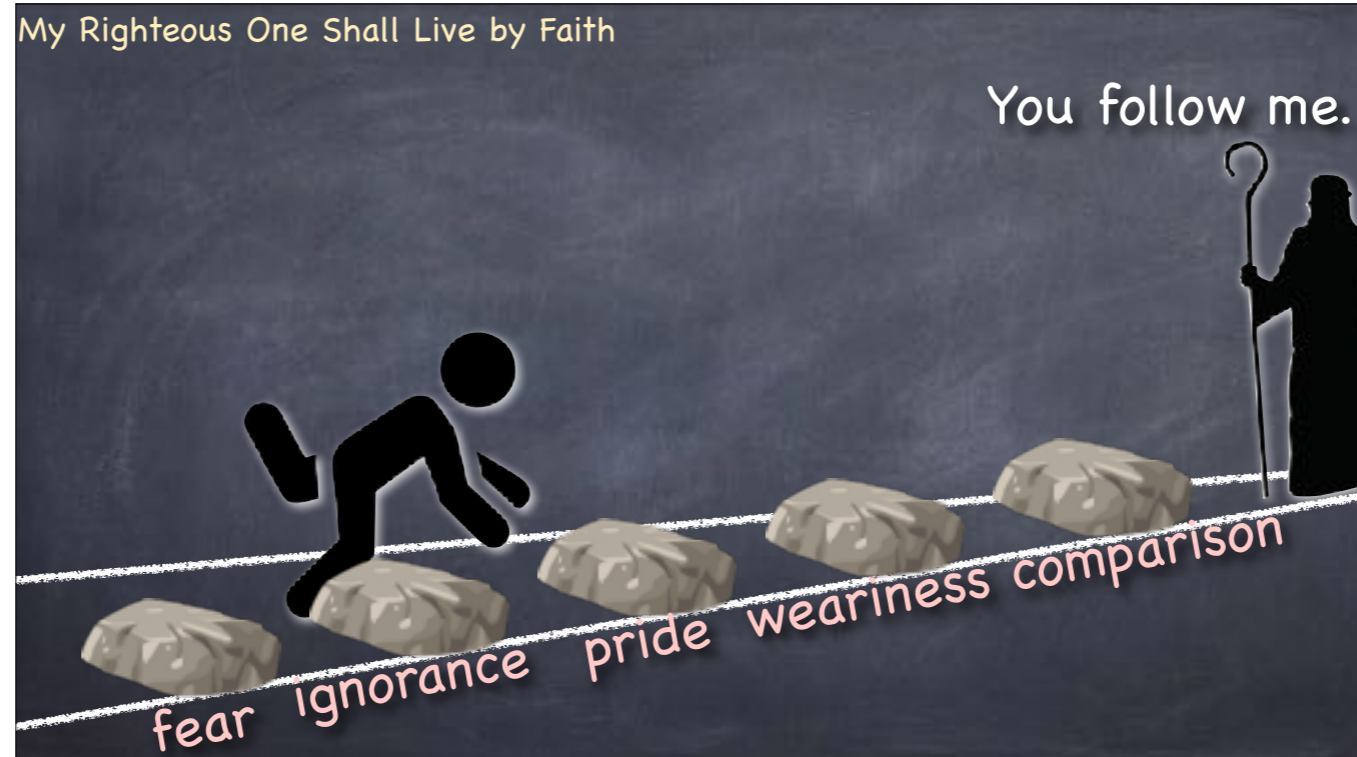
You follow me.



- You follow me!
- Keep on following!



- Will you follow Jesus?
 - John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Faith will change your life!
 - Mind on God, not self and man
 - Eternal, not just the day
 - Live by faith
 - Walk by faith



- Beware of those things that make you stumble.
- When your faith is little, or weak, or close to failing...
- When you stumble
 - It's okay... it happens
 - Keep going!
 - Jesus didn't say: "follow me, but don't ever stumble"

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

You follow me.



- Lord, Save Me!
 - Jesus reach out and helped Peter! Saved him.
 - Smile? Pleased with our faith.
 - Rebuke...



- But don't shrink back
 - quitting doesn't please God.

My Righteous One Shall Live by Faith

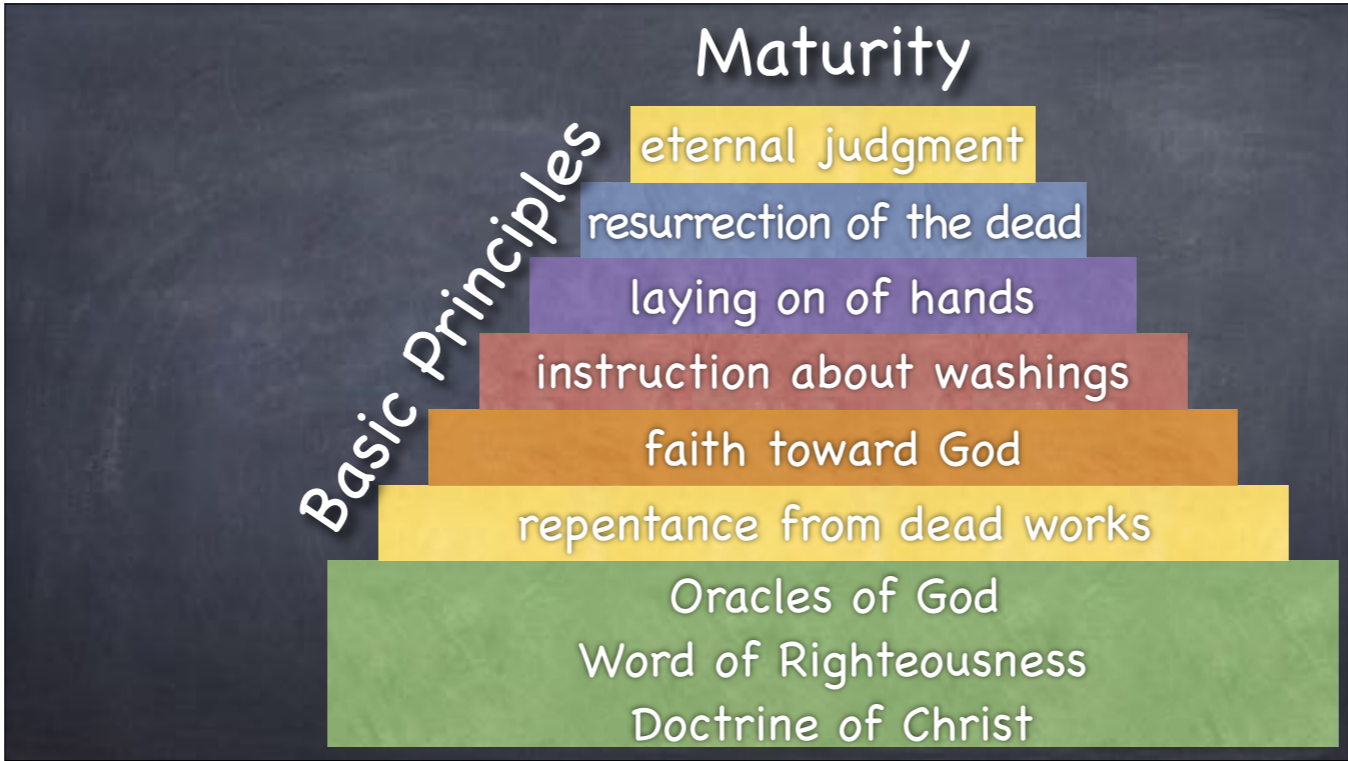
You follow me.



- You follow me!

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20



- text

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You Follow Me: Walking by Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7

Synopsis: Peter provides an excellent example of what it means to follow Jesus and walk by faith. Faith will change your life, but there are still stumbling blocks that must be overcome.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."