



New Life

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

Fall 2005

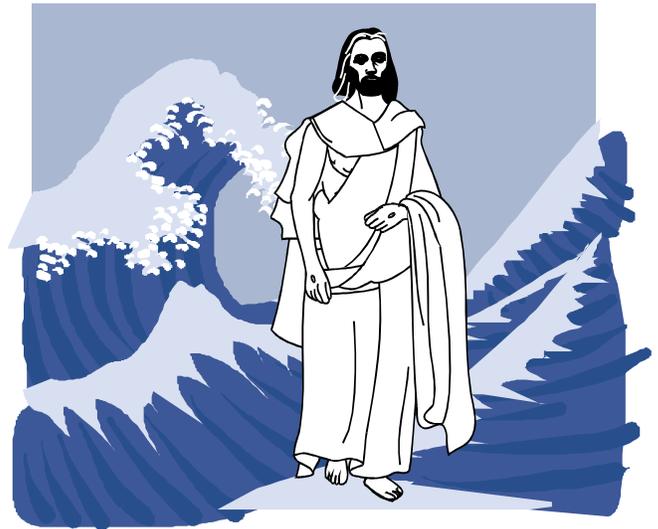
Dare To Be Different

By Vince C. Dorazio

When I was a youngster, we kids would often dare each other to do something we wouldn't ordinary do. It usually was somewhat dangerous, at the time, and there was a possibility that we might get hurt. Maybe it meant climbing up on a roof, or diving off the high board at the swimming pool, for the first time. But when someone said, "*I dare you*" that was a challenge that sometimes went unchallenged. But then came the second voice, "*I DOUBLE DARE YOU!*" Now it was almost certain you had to go through with what you were challenged to do, even if you got hurt in the process. When you finally completed the dare, you were relieved that it was over, and somehow, it didn't seem that hard to begin with. Eventually it became easier.

Have you ever thought about trying to do something that you never did before? Maybe like skydiving, or maybe diving off a high cliff into the ocean, or bungee jumping. Perhaps you even considered walking on water? Wait a minute. What's this walking on water business? Walking on water? Why only Jesus did that, didn't He? Besides, He's God. He could do whatever He wants. True, but St. Peter the Apostle also walked on the water during a storm at sea (see Matthew 14:22-33). Of all the Apostles in the boat, only Peter dared to be different!

When Peter and the other Apostles saw Jesus coming towards them walking across the open sea, they became frightened. They thought they were seeing a ghost. Seeing their fear, Jesus tried to reassure them by saying, "*Get hold of yourselves! It is I. do not be afraid!*" And it was Peter who spoke out, "*If it is really you, tell me to come to*



you across the water!" And Jesus responded, "*Come.*" So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk upon the water towards Jesus!

Can you imagine the look on the other Apostles faces as they saw Peter putting his legs over the side of the boat and lowering himself down to the water? This Scripture passage records that there was a strong headwind and the boat was being tossed about by the high waves. I'm sure the other Apostles thought that Peter had lost his senses, when he started to climb out of the boat. They probably thought that Peter would surely drown in the storm. And I suppose that some even tried to stop him. But there was Peter, on the water, only an arms length away from Jesus.

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What made Peter do something that he never had done before? After all, Peter was a fisherman by trade, and he knew the ways of the sea. He knew that no one ever walked on water before and lived. Could it be that Peter was testing his own faith in Jesus? Or was he putting Jesus to the test?

Notice what Peter said, ***“If it is really you..”*** It’s possible that Peter couldn’t believe what he was seeing. However, he knew that if it really were Jesus walking on the stormy water, then it would be possible for him to do the same. So when Jesus said, ***“Come”***, It was a “double dare” to step out of the boat unto the water. When Peter realized where he was and what was happening, he became frightened and began to sink. He cried out to Jesus saying, ***“LORD, SAVE ME!”*** and Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him saying, ***“How little faith you have! Why did you falter?”*** and they climbed into the boat!

Something to note here, As long as Peter kept his eyes and mind focused on Jesus, he was able to stay afloat; walking on the water. But once he diverted his focus on what he was doing, he began to sink.

Later, after Jesus’ resurrection, Peter had another opportunity to do something he would never have thought of doing before. He not only entered the house of Cornelius, a Gentile, but he also ate and drank their food, and he also shared the salvation of Jesus with them (see Acts 10). At that time, the Apostles were only concerned with telling the Jewish people about Jesus. As far as they were concerned, the Gentiles and any other non-Jewish person were “unclean” and not worthy of receiving the Holy Spirit. But God was challenging Peter to go through with the vision He had given to him. In a manner of speaking God was “double daring” Peter to do something he would never had thought of doing before.

In his vision (Acts 10:9-23), Peter saw a canvas full of four legged creatures and reptiles inside. He heard a voice say ***“Peter, slaughter and eat.”*** But Peter responded, ***“I have never eaten***

anything unclean in my life.” Then Peter heard, ***“What God has declared purified, you are not to call unclean.”*** When Peter arrived at Cornelius’ house, he said, ***“You must know that it is not proper for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or have any dealings with him. But God has made it clear to me that no one should call any man unclean or impure.”*** Peter then proceeded to evangelize the Word of God with them, telling them about Jesus. As he was speaking, Cornelius and all the other Gentiles received the gift of the Holy Spirit and all were praising God in tongues!

Sometimes, we in the Charismatic Renewal are limited in our vision as to spreading the salvation of Jesus with other people. We have a tendency to relate only to our own kind and denomination, Catholics to Catholics, Lutherans to Lutherans, etc. or maybe only to our own parish and congregation. But as God made perfectly clear, salvation is for everyone, even the unbelievers!

When was the last time you were dared to do something different for the Lord? Are you willing to step out of the boat and walk towards Jesus, doing whatever He tells you to do? Are you willing to make a leap of faith and begin sharing the salvation of Jesus Christ to everyone? Or will you leave that for someone else to do?

This is the time for **revival** and **evangelism!** It is time to bring the good news of the salvation of Jesus Christ to everyone! Jesus is daring us to increase our faith and not to falter. He is encouraging us to “step out of our boats” and do something we never would have done before!

**I dare you to tell someone
new that Jesus Christ is
Lord of your life!**

I DOUBLE DARE YOU!

NEW LIFE EXPANDS ITS MINISTRY TO THE WHOLE WORLD!

As many of you know, the primary purpose of this ministry and newsletter is to proclaim to all that **JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!** Now, with the help of a friend, I have been challenged to expand the ministry to the whole world by way of the **INTERNET** on the **WORLD WIDE WEB**. For the last few months, I have uploaded the past newsletters onto the Internet for the whole world to see and read. Truly, with the modern technology of computers and world Internet, the words of Jesus' command has become a reality, **"Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation!"** (Mark 16:15).

It has been a challenging and rewarding experience these past few months putting together the layout and construction of these Internet Web pages. The web site is about 85% complete, but it is up and running. It will be continuously updated on a monthly basis. To access the web site just type the following in your browser's address location box.

www.NewLifeCRM.org

I ask your help in telling your friends, relatives, associates, and anyone else you meet about the **New Life Renewal Website**. This is your opportunity to help spread the word of God, and the salvation of Jesus to all people, wherever they may be. Just think about it. People from all over the world will be able to read about Jesus as Lord and Savior, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, wherever they may be. and whenever they want, day or night!

You can become a vital part of this ministry and help spread the salvation of Jesus and the gifts of the Holy Spirit by doing the following:

- 1) Pray that those who access the website will come to know Jesus as their Savior, especially the non-believers.**
- 2) Tell everyone you know and meet about the website and how they can access it.**
- 3) Make a tax-deductible donation to keep the web pages on the Internet.**

If you would like to receive New Life Renewal Newsletter by e-mail, please return the form below. This will save us the cost of printing and postage. Your suggestions or comments are most welcome. Please send them to me by regular mail, or by e-mail at **NewLifeCRM@aol.com**



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