

# The Seduction of Compliance



Compliance is seductive  
because it ensures safety.



**Matthew 14:** 22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

**Matthew 14:** 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

**Matthew 14: 29** “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **“You of little faith,”** he said, **“why did you doubt?”**

**Matthew 14: 32** And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. **33** Then those who were in the boat **worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”**

**34** When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. **35** And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country.



**Mark 6: 48** He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to **pass by them**, 49 but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost.

**Exodus 33:** 21 Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

**Mark 6: 50-52** Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; **their hearts were hardened.**



**In the Kingdom of God, failure is  
never a bad thing  
because failure cracks open  
hard hearts.**

Failure in the Kingdom is not a  
sign you're moving in the wrong  
direction.

It's the opposite.

# What is unacceptable in the Kingdom of God

---

**is the failure of never failing.**



**For Christians, compliance is not  
only about safety.**

---

**It's also about the fear of letting  
Christ down.**

Although safety is the reward for  
compliance

---

Christ longs to partner with the  
courageous of faith.

**Matthew 16: 15** “But what about you?” he asked.

“Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that **you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.



The opposite of compliance is  
not freedom.

It's responsibility.



# Our responsibilities as Christians

**Our responsibilities as Christians**

**Discover where Jesus is and join  
him there.**

# Our responsibilities as Christians

Discover where Jesus is and join  
him there.

Fail upward.

**1 Peter 1: 6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come

**1 Peter 1: 6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that

**1 Peter 1: 6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—

**1 Peter 1: 6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—**may result** in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.



# Our responsibilities as Christians

Discover where Jesus is and join  
him there.

Fail upward.

All things must lead us to the  
worship of Jesus.

**Romans 8: 38** For I am convinced that **neither** death nor life, **neither** angels nor demons, **neither** the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** **neither** height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.





The center of  
the herd may  
be safer **but the**  
**view is terrible.**



# The Seduction of Compliance