



PETER: A NEXT-LEVEL BELIEVER

PART 3 — HE WAS THE FIRST TO FAIL

Next-Level Believers Risk Failure

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

"THE SAFEST PLACE
TO FAIL IS WHILE
TRYING TO OBEY JESUS."

1

HE WAS AFRAID OF WHAT HE SAW

Peter's environment became more convincing than Jesus' invitation.



QUESTION:
What do you see
that scares you?

2

HE HAD WHAT JESUS CALLED "LITTLE FAITH"

Jesus didn't say Peter had no faith.
He had little faith.



QUESTION:
What size faith
do you have?

3

HE STRUGGLED WITH SELF-DOUBT

He allowed doubt to interrupt
his faith.



QUESTION:
What do you doubt
you can do?



MATTHEW 14:30–31 (NIV)

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?"



KEY THOUGHT:

*Sometimes failure is evidence
that you finally left the safety
of the boat.*

Peter: A Next-Level Believer (Next Level Believers Risk Failure)

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Part 3 — He Was the First to Fail

Next-Level Believers Risk Failure

Now you get to the part that I think makes the series different.

Scripture — Matthew 14:30–31 (NIV)



- 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?”**

Big Question: Are you so afraid of failing that you have stopped attempting anything that requires faith?

Note: Sometimes failure is evidence that you finally left the safety of the boat.

Three Reasons Peter Failed:

1. He was afraid of what he saw
2. He had what Jesus called “little faith”
3. He struggled with self-doubt

Three Questions

1. What do you see that scares you?
2. What size faith do you have?
3. What do you doubt you can do?

What Does the Bible Say About Failure

1. Sometimes we cause it
2. Sometimes those around us cause it
3. Most times, we learn our most beneficial and life-changing lessons through failure

Three Lessons from Israel’s Failure at the Promised Land

1. You Don’t Always Get Two Tries

Israel refused to enter when God told them to go. After judgment was announced, they changed their minds and tried to go anyway.

Numbers 14:40–42 (NIV)

“Early the next morning they set out for the highest point in the hill country, saying, ‘Now we are ready to go up to the land the Lord promised. Surely we have sinned!’ But Moses said, ‘Why are

you disobeying the Lord's command? This will not succeed! Do not go up, because the Lord is not with you.'”

Key Thought:

Some opportunities have a window. Being ready tomorrow does not guarantee that tomorrow will offer the same opportunity.

2. You Don't Always Get to Avoid the Consequences

God forgave Israel, but forgiveness did not eliminate the consequences of their decision.

Numbers 14:20–23 (NIV)

“The Lord replied, ‘I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors.’”

Key Thought:

God's forgiveness can restore your relationship without reversing every consequence.

3. Your Failure Can Affect People Who Didn't Make Your Decision

Numbers 14:31, 33 (NIV)

“As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected.... Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness.”

Their children eventually entered the Promised Land, but they spent forty years living through consequences created by their parents' choices.

Key Thought:

Some failures are personal decisions that create generational consequences.

Closing:

4. You Can Become a Generational Proverb (1 Corinthians 10:6, NIV)

“Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.”

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NIV)

“These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.”

Summary:

The goal is not merely to survive your failures. Learn from them so your life becomes an example of what to do, rather than a warning about what not to do.