

# WALKING *on* WATER

*Experiencing*  
a Life of Miracles,  
Courageous Faith  
and Union with God

JENNIFER A. MISKOV, PH.D.



**Chosen**

*a division of Baker Publishing Group*  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jennifer A. Miskov, Ph.D., *Walking on Water*  
Chosen Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2017. Used by permission.

(Unpublished manuscript—copyright protected Baker Publishing Group)

© 2017 by Jennifer A. Miskov

Published by Chosen Books  
11400 Hampshire Avenue South  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55438  
www.chosenbooks.com

Chosen Books is a division of  
Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017941813

ISBN 978-0-8007-9851-2

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Cover Design by Brian Bobel

17 18 19 20 21 22 23      7 6 5 4 3 2 1

In keeping with biblical principles of creation stewardship, Baker Publishing Group advocates the responsible use of our natural resources. As a member of the Green Press Initiative, our company uses recycled paper when possible. The text paper of this book is composed in part of post-consumer waste.



Jennifer A. Miskov, Ph.D., *Walking on Water*  
Chosen Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2017. Used by permission.

(Unpublished manuscript—copyright protected Baker Publishing Group)

To my sister, Darla Dake,  
who carries fierce determination and courage.  
You are one of the most inspiring single mothers I  
know. The mercy you have experienced and that you  
demonstrate for others is simply remarkable.

To my brother, Joe Miskov.  
You are a true hero, laying down your life to bring  
relief and refuge for those in the most devastating  
of circumstances. How you selflessly give your life  
to love the poor and those who need it the most is  
truly inspiring.

To Mark Brookes,  
a true father to this generation.  
You have raised up courageous ones who know what  
joy is and are marked by the Father's love. Your  
passion for revival is contagious. Because stadiums  
await, this book is for you.

To you reading this.  
I believe the Lord has destined you to be a burning one  
who will partner with others to ignite a generation for  
Jesus. You will burn but will not burn out, because  
you will keep your eyes on Jesus, remain in Him and  
surround yourself with family all the days of your  
life. I pray that you receive this book—a piece of my  
heart torn out for you—as an offering of love that  
sparks a fierce determination to take hold of Jesus,  
no matter what the cost.

# Contents

Acknowledgments	13
Foreword by Heidi Baker: <i>Longing to Be in His Presence</i>	15
Beginnings	21
1. The Secret Place	25
2. Restoring Hope	33
3. Peace in the Storm	42
4. The Art of Letting Go	51
5. Compelled by Love	62
6. Focus	72
7. Full Attention	81
8. Forward Momentum	90
9. It Was Not Jesus' Idea	99
10. Risk	110
11. Resilience	118
12. Seek First the Kingdom	130
13. Miracle Flight	142

*Contents*

14. Hunger	156
15. Obsession	165
16. Courage	173
17. Burn	183
Notes	185

# Acknowledgments

I am extremely grateful to Jane Campbell for not giving up on this project or on me. Along with the Holy Spirit, she was a true catalyst for this book. Thanks to all of the team at Chosen for praying into this project and for their hard work to make it a reality. Thanks also to Steve Lawson for being a great agent and for always being willing to champion me.

I am grateful to Sarah Hodgkinson for all of her support and encouragement, as well as each of my intercessors near and far. Special thanks to Heidi and Rolland Baker and the Iris Global family for always believing in me and supporting me through all seasons.

I cannot express my appreciation enough for the Destiny House family for their grace and prayers during my season of writing. I am grateful for the week of prayer and fasting I had with Lindsey Privitera at Destiny House at the end of summer 2016. I felt an increased anointing when I was writing some of the final chapters of this book from our times of saturating in God's presence together. The way Lindsey lives for the one thing and demonstrates the love of Jesus to others is inspiring and moves the heart of God. Nicol Rumstrom has

*Acknowledgments*

been a faithful friend whose presence is healing and always feels like home to me. Many more saints have been faithful to cover me in prayer and encourage me in this process. The dream of this book would not have been possible without this special family of greats surrounding me in love and support. For this, I am forever grateful.

# Foreword

## *Longing to Be in His Presence*

I am thrilled you picked up *Walking on Water*, which was written by one of my awesome spiritual daughters. As you open wide your heart to receive her message, you will be marked by God's great love. You will go on a journey of risking it all to be closer to Jesus. *Walking on Water* is all about slowing down to fix your eyes on Jesus and to remain in Him. Regardless of what has happened in your life up to this point, God in His mercy wants to take you into a deeper place. As you read *Walking on Water*, I pray that God would overtake you and lead you into a greater place of intimacy with Him than you have ever known.

Jesus is so worth our *yes*. He is longing for all of our worship. He wants to take us deeper into His presence. The atmosphere surrounding our lives changes as we give Him all of our worship. Right now, I encourage you to yield your heart to Him; yield your mind, yield your time, yield your spirit and

yield your life to God. Let Him come and take you into abandonment in His presence.

If we come into a place of yielded love, then we will come into a place of yielded joy, because we will know who He is. The way we think and act will change. When we yield, the fragrance of Jesus is so strong inside of us that we are propelled by the power of love into a dying world. God wants to take our little lives and breathe in and through them. When we are filled with the glory, we are so yielded and transformed that we believe He is who He says He is, and we bear fruit that brings Him joy.

The things God has done in me as I have yielded to Him are beyond my understanding. He has gone above and beyond what I could ever have imagined. Our movement, Iris Global, continues to grow today because we started slow and stayed low. Lower and slower does not sound right to a world that thinks it is all about higher and faster. But what if we moved lower and slower in listening to the heart of God and the mind of Christ before taking action? We abide in the vine. I encourage you to change the way you use your time. Yield yourself to the One who understands fruitfulness, the One who creates fruit. He is looking for people who will participate and say yes to yielding their hearts to Jesus in total surrender and abandonment. He wants to take you into a place of intimacy, to a place where you are undone.

I had prayed for miracles since I was sixteen years old. I had seen backs, legs and skin problems healed, but I wanted more. At one point in my life I was desperate, wanting more but not knowing how to get it. As I was wooed into His presence and the glory realm became heavier and heavier on me, everything in the miracle realm changed as well. Suddenly, I saw miracles I had never seen before: Paraplegics ran, cancer

disappeared, people with deaf ears heard, blind eyes opened and villages of people from other faiths came to Jesus.

I have learned that all miracles, signs and wonders flow from intimacy. We are in a hurry much of the time, but we must slow down to realize that fruitfulness flows from the place of intimacy with Jesus. We can do nothing outside of God, but in Him we can step into the impossible.

More happens in one moment in the anointing than in all of the years of effort and striving. I saw more in one hour in the anointing than in twenty years of striving. It takes only one minute in graced anointing for lives to be completely transformed—only one moment. Whenever I preach, I have just one point—Jesus! Abiding in my Jesus, loving on my Jesus, living my Jesus, just being with my Jesus. Everything that happens flows out of that place. Jesus is calling out from the very depths of His heart, asking us to give Him time. Do you want to give Him the time? Do you want to come into a place where your whole atmosphere shifts into the weighty glory?

After studying theology for ten years at university, I had this idea that lying on the floor and soaking in God's presence for seven days was a bizarre waste of time when there are people out there who are hungry, sick, dying, lost, hurting and unable to get out of their pain. I realized, however, that God incapacitates us at times to change the way we think. If you will allow God to possess you, and if you will give Him the time, then He will give you the resources in the hours you have left to hold the poor, the dying and the broken. You will have the energy of God in you. When you are in Him, then you glorify Him; when you are not, you do not. Being burned out makes Him sad. When you are yielded in His presence and in the heart of God, then you are full of joy.

As the demands on my life increase and I see a greater need to help the poor and pray for healing, I always change my schedule. I take another hour in the prayer closet. I add another hour worshipping. I add another hour in the glory with Jesus in the secret place. I find a way each time it gets busy. Instead of falling into a place of exhaustion, I step into a place of victory and strength. Dwelling in the secret place takes time. If we are in a hurry, we are going to miss it. God wants to change the way we think. We have been pressured by a model of success that causes us to push into things that do not please God. The Lord is saying, *Beloved, if you will come into the glory realm, then things will happen.*

I believe that the busier we become, the more time we need in His presence. I need four to five hours a day in His presence just to function and to face the crowd. I get up early and spend time with Him. When I am losing joy, I find it when I have that time with Him. I also find I am less worried during the day. Some people do not like that I spend that much time soaking, running, walking, swimming in the glory, because they think a lot more could get done if I started my day in meetings earlier. Every cell in my body resists, and I say, *Lord, in the midst of a dying world, I'm going to choose to give You my time. I'm going to give You the most precious offering, the most costly gift that I know how to give—another hour in the secret place. I'm going to give this time with joy. I am going to breathe in the presence of the One I love, and I'm going to give You what You desire most. I'm going to give You a sacrificial offering—a life of worship, a life in Your presence, a life in the glory.*

God wants to open the eyes of your spirit. He wants to show you the secret place. He wants to change the way you think and the way that you use your time. Your time is the most precious gift you could give God. Your time is more

valuable than your money, than anything you could lay upon the altar. God is asking you for your time. He wants time with you in the glory, time in the secret place, time in the realm of the spirit, time in the holy glory, time that is abandoned and fully wasted on Him.

I believe God wants to shake each person reading *Walking on Water*. He wants to burn everything that does not bring Him joy. You can produce nothing in yourself, but in God you are unstoppable. Ask for the fire. Let it burn away self-sufficiency, arrogance, pride and the idea that we can do it our way and faster.

Pray this together with me now:

Jesus, I want to be consumed by Your love. Burn in me a fire that will never go out. Set my heart on fire. Make it a burning, blazing torch. Let the glory of Jesus ignite my heart with love. Burn away the chaff, burn away the flesh and burn away the things that don't bring You joy. BURN! Lord, ignite me in this moment. I give myself as a living sacrifice. I give myself as an offering of love. I give myself as a yielded lover. I give You my time. I invite You to change my schedule and to change the way I think. My mind is still too big and my heart too small. Enlarge my heart. Come with Your fire. I yield myself to the fire of Your love. I choose to worship You with my time and with my whole heart.

The heavy glory is falling on some of you reading this right now. Some of you are physically beginning to feel heat. That is God's fire of love marking you. Some of you reading this are going to covenant with God to change your schedule. You are not just reading a book about walking on water and stepping into miracles with great faith. You are soaking in His glorious presence until your misery is turned into joy

and your grapes turn into vineyards. You are repositioning your life for greater union with God. You are inviting Him to come and wreck you with His all-consuming love. I ask for the fire of God to fall on each person reading right now. I bless you to be ignited with a fresh fire for intimacy with Jesus as you embark on this journey with the Holy Spirit in *Walking on Water*.

Heidi Baker, Ph.D., founding director, Iris Global

# Beginnings

Twenty years ago I never would have imagined that I would be writing a book about walking on water. But this is more than just a book about miracles and doing the impossible; it is an invitation to embark on a journey of learning how to fall more in love. For when we are in love, we will do anything, even the impossible.

*Walking on Water* is about focus, intimacy and risk. It is about keeping our eyes on Jesus, growing closer to Him and following our yielded hearts at all costs. It is about loving Him for love's sake and about stepping through fear simply to be closer to the One we love. It is about jumping out of the boat to be wherever He is, even if it is in dangerous and unsafe waters.

In Matthew 14:22–33, Peter was led by his heart to walk on water because he wanted to be closer to Jesus. When we want Jesus more than any other lovers, we will do anything to be with Him. When we must have more of Him at all costs, we will not care what people around us will think of our radical acts of love. When we keep our eyes on Him through the storms and continue to draw near to Him in all circumstances, beneath the scenes courageous hope is formed.

## **Prophetic Vision**

In the summer of 2015, I had a vision of being on a boat in the midst of a storm. A captain wearing all yellow was in charge. I felt safe with him there. I also had the sense that Jesus was out in the storm, calling me to be with Him. When I moved toward Him, I became paralyzed with fear. I did not want to leave the security of the boat. I was stuck with one foot in and one foot out, focusing on the “what ifs” and the storm around me. Yet I still felt Jesus was out on the waters, farther into the storm, calling me to Him.

Finally I decided to refocus my gaze on His face. I then gained confidence to pull my other leg around to the outside of the boat and let go. Letting go is usually what happens to us right before a big breakthrough in our lives. I dove into the water and swam to Jesus’ feet, where He reached His hands to pull me up. We stood there together for a few moments before He led me to dance on top of the waters. He held my gaze. I could have stayed there for an eternity. Nothing could replace the excitement my heart felt by being with Him in that moment. Everything else faded away in the light of His glory and face.

Like this vision, life is much more exciting when we step out of the boat into perilous waters to do whatever it takes to be closer to Jesus. We can stay safe inside the boat and live mediocre and normal lives and still go to heaven. I wonder, though, what might be awaiting us if we leave our comfort zones and venture out into dangerous waters because Jesus is there. What greater measure of our destinies might be experienced when we recognize Jesus in the midst of the storms and step out to take hold of Him?

Jesus died so that we could live the abundant life here and now (John 10:10). He did not die so that we could live boring,

safe and uninspiring lives; nor did He die simply to give us a one-way ticket to heaven. He lived to die so that we could step into the fullness of our destinies and live lives full of adventure, releasing the Kingdom of God wherever we go. This abundant life is filled with healing the sick, casting out demons and raising the dead (Matthew 10:8). But it is also filled with much more, including greater union with Him and fulfillment of the desires of our hearts.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to step out in faith toward many impossibilities—some successful, others not as much. In the process I have learned to cling to Jesus even more and to get back up when I fall. I have learned that I can never fail because God promises to turn everything around for the good (Romans 8:28). I have experienced what total abandonment feels like. I have put myself in situations in which the deepest parts of my heart have been exposed and laid bare before others. I have felt such raw vulnerability that all I wanted to do was run away and hide. I have experienced what it feels like to be desperate and to have absolutely no other options but God for deliverance. In the midst of some of these extreme acts of surrender, trust and faith, I have seen Him come through and do things beyond what I could ever have dreamed.

### Let the Journey Begin

During our journey together in *Walking on Water*, you will discover how falling in love with Jesus is the key to courageous faith to step into the impossible. We will be primarily looking at the story of Peter stepping out of the boat to be with Jesus. You will see this account in a new light, and you will never look at it the same way again. I will share some of my own stories with you and what I have learned along

the way. In most chapters of this book, we will also look at the implications for our own lives. You will be challenged with activations that, I believe, will help you live a more free, fearless, passionate, courageous and powerful life of love for Jesus. Do not feel the need to rush through this book. You will get more out of it if you take the time to do the activations as well as process the deeper issues of the heart that arise as you are reading.

I now invite you to join me on this journey into greater intimacy with Jesus with total abandonment. Leave all heavy baggage at home, for you are about to go on the adventure of a lifetime. I believe you will be changed as you embrace this journey wholeheartedly and with full surrender. Do not be afraid—He will give you the strength and courage to step outside the boat to find Him. Jesus is right here, awaiting you with open arms. He is calling you today to meet Him out on the waters.

As you fully yield to the Holy Spirit in this process, I pray that your present reality is disrupted and that you become ruined by God's great love. As you keep your eyes on Jesus and draw near, may boldness come on you to step into a greater measure of your God-given destiny. As you are overcome and disarmed by His unyielding love, I pray that you fall more in love with Jesus than ever before, and that your courage will know no bounds.

# 1

## The Secret Place

I love quiet and secluded places where I can get away from all distractions to give God my full attention. This way of life got heightened not many years ago. In early 2012, I moved into what would later become known as Destiny House. This home has since birthed a ministry made up of a tribe of worshipers who intentionally do life together and launch people into their destinies from a place of God's presence and through family. Shortly after I had moved in, I found myself in the midst of a storm. I had just received my Ph.D. and been ordained by one of my heroes, Heidi Baker, but I had no job, no car and no money, and nothing seemed to be coming together for me in my recent transition to Redding, California. This was the first time in my life I had to live off my credit card, which I hated. The doors I tried knocking on for employment all slammed shut in my face. I had no idea what to do or where to go. I just knew I needed to be closer to Jesus.

During this season, I found a way to go to a nearby lake, where I discovered a secret spot to be alone with Jesus each week. Throughout my times there, my only agenda was simply to be with Him. I did not have any answers, and I did not even know what to pray. I went to the lake in the morning without planning an ending time. I was with Him until I felt it was time to leave. Sometimes I would go for a swim, lie there, listen or simply just be. Other times, I would pray, journal, worship or read my Bible. It looked different every time. Sometimes I would hear Him speak to me, and other times it felt as if He were silent. The storm of lack and disillusionment I was facing led me there week after week.

If Jesus really is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6), then I believed He was my way, He was my destination in the storm and He was my only answer. I had no other options but Him. Even before the answers came, being with Him in my storm brought peace, closeness and discovery of Him as my anchor still.

The desperation I experienced in the storm pressed me into a place of courage and risk-taking to step into what came next. Later that summer, God broke through in a special way with a job that I was born for. I eventually got back on my feet and started to move forward in life. God used this storm to stir up a greater hunger for Him and to help me cultivate a practice in my life that continues to this day.

Since making it through that hard time in 2012, I spend time at the lake each week with no other agenda than to simply “be” with Jesus. I get excited every time I drive to my secret spot on the lake’s shore, because I know Jesus is there, waiting to spend time with me and commune together. He cannot wait to have me all to Himself. It has become a wonderful rhythm in my life.

While I was initially driven to the lake from a place of needing deliverance, a different sort of desperation now drives me. I am currently led to the lake each week because I am hungry to encounter more of His love and to be closer to Him. The circumstances are now irrelevant. Both in good and in difficult times, I need more of Jesus.

### A New Song of Hope

During that same storm, when no doors were opening in my “Promised Land,” a piano was given to us at Destiny House. I had learned to play the guitar in my teenage years, and though I had always admired the piano, I had not yet explored it. Since all I knew to do during that storm was to worship Jesus, I taught myself how to play.

It was during this season that I wrote my first worship song on the piano. I opened my Bible to Psalm 71, laid it on the piano and sang out the Scriptures. This song was my declaration that I would always have hope in God, even in the midst of storms. I knew I needed to worship Him no matter what the circumstances were. I knew I needed to declare hope into my situation even though I did not feel it at the time. I knew I could not let the storm raging around me steal my confidence in God. By my clinging to Him during that time, a new measure of courage and strength rose in me. My perspective rested upon the truth that God was good no matter what. The following was my heart’s song and declaration of hope in that season:

But as for me, I will always have hope  
And I will praise You more  
Till I come and declare Your works  
I will always have hope in You

Since my youth, You have taught me Your ways  
Don't forsake me, Lord, till I come and declare Your  
works  
I will always have hope in You

From making it through this hard season, several things became embedded in my spiritual DNA. Besides learning the significance of setting aside consistent time to be with God without any other agenda, I made a conscious decision that I would also worship Him no matter what storms came (as in 2 Chronicles 20). He is always faithful, and He never changes despite my circumstances. I learned that worship is a powerful weapon for the Kingdom of God that stills the storm inside of me even if a storm is thundering on the outside. I learned the profound truth that Jesus is always with me, both in good times and in bad.

### Prayer Closet

Several years later, during the summer of 2015, I felt the Lord drawing me away to be with Him more than usual. I have had seasons like this throughout the years, when I felt a strong pull to get away with the Lover of my soul more often than normal. During these times, Jesus has allured me into greater levels of intimacy and relationship with Him in the secret place. This all required time.

During this season, I lived with my friends Tim and Nicol, and I responded to His leading by setting aside one of my closets solely for the purpose of encountering God. My little prayer closet was small but mighty, filled with glory! It was a place where I could play the guitar and worship as loud as I wanted, because no one in the house could really hear me. It was a place where I could leave my environment and

pursue the “one thing” (see Psalm 27). It was a place set aside only for Him.

During this summer season, I felt led to give Him every morning in my prayer closet, singing melodies to Him as I strummed my guitar. These were special and sacred times. I did not do this because I wanted to prepare to do the impossible. I was not spending this time with Him so that I could step through major breakthroughs or do great miracles. I set aside this time and space simply to commune with the living God.

### **Developing Rhythms**

One of the best ways to grow in our love and passion for God is by setting aside time to connect with Him regularly in the secret place. Jesus did this as a lifestyle. He developed a rhythm in which He prioritized meeting with His Father both in times of joy and in times of pain.

Not long before the story of Peter walking on water begins, Jesus learned that His friend John the Baptist had been killed. He responded to this news by withdrawing into a boat to be alone with His Father to process the grief. When He arrived on the other side of the lake, the multitudes found Him. He responded by healing their sick and by multiplying bread and fish to feed more than five thousand people (Matthew 14:1–21). After this miracle, the people were ready to force Him to become their king (John 6:14–15). Following this,

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.

Matthew 14:22–23

Jesus had just performed a miracle and had a powerful day of healing ministry, but even He needed to withdraw from the crowds to be alone with His Father. Whether He was celebrating miracles or continuing to grieve, Jesus regularly found refuge and life in communion with His Father.

Developing a secret place was an important part of Jesus' life. He often withdrew to lonely and secluded places to pray (Luke 5:16). To do this He would rise early in the morning while it was still dark (Mark 1:35). Jesus also had regular places where He would go and pray, like the Mount of Olives (Luke 22:39). He recognized that secret places could be cultivated in solitary settings as well as in the home (Matthew 6:6). Throughout His life, Jesus made it a priority and invested time again and again simply to be with His Father, and He encouraged others to follow His pattern.

Whenever Jesus came out of His times of solitude, He usually did something powerful or significant. After His forty-day fast in the wilderness, He was launched into His ministry (Mark 1:9–20). After spending the whole night on a mountainside to pray, the next day He chose His disciples (Luke 6:12–13). After Jesus came back from being alone, He miraculously fed the five thousand; then, after more time alone, He walked on water and stilled the storm (Matthew 14:13–33). The list could go on. Great exploits usually followed the time Jesus set apart to be with His Father.

If Jesus Himself needed time away from the crowds to thrive, and if He developed secret places to commune with God, then perhaps we need that, too. If we want to grow in our connection with God, we need to invest time with Him. Strong relationships are built on purpose, not by chance. Intimacy with Jesus requires time. This might cost us something. We might prefer to sleep in a little longer rather than wake up to fellowship with Him. Others might want to meet with

us during our consecrated times to be with Him. We might have a to-do list screaming at us to get to work. But relationship with Jesus is worth fighting for. Time with Him is one of the most valuable investments we can make in this life.

While the end goal is to become a dwelling place where each of us can live in His presence every second of the day, no matter where we go, there is also something significant about setting aside a specific time and place to go deep with the One we love (Psalm 84). Union with God means being fully present. There is something about solitude and getting away from it all that helps bring better focus. When everything is stripped away and there are no distractions, we can give God our complete attention and hear His voice even more clearly. Both in good times and in bad, Jesus is waiting with open arms for us to run to Him in the secret place.

#### **ACTIVATION: Developing Your Own Secret Place**

1. Take a few minutes to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you a special place away from all distractions that can be set apart for union with Him. Write what He shows you below:
2. Now ask Him to show you an extended time each week that you can set apart, having no other agenda but simply to be with Him. Write this time below:
3. I encourage you to make it a point to regularly get away to be with Him in the time and place He just revealed to you. Allow Him to lead you. Ask Him to make you hungry for more of Him. Have no other agenda but simply to spend time with Him. You can even write in

your journal, “God, what do You want to speak to me today?” Then listen and write out what He shows you.

It pleases God’s heart when we set aside time simply to commune with Him. When God answers our call for hunger, making time is easy because He regularly comes and apprehends us with His presence, where we cannot do anything but yield to Him. Making time to be vulnerable and to grow in intimacy with God is one of the most worthwhile investments we can make. Cultivating intimacy with Him is also an important foundation for stepping into and stewarding the impossible.

Be courageous to invite Him into areas of your heart left unexposed to His love. He wants to take you deeper today. He is good, He is safe and He will gently lead you beside still waters as you lean into Him and let Him love you.