

7. There is a system of spiritual mechanics which God has graciously provided every believer to utilize in order to learn divine truth. They produce a superstructure that is pleasing to the Lord and by which the believer receives the eternal escrow at the evaluation tribunal of Christ.
8. The process is, chronologically, presented in this order:
- (1) **Spirituality:** the baptism of the Holy Spirit which involves His filling and teaching ministries, accessed through rebound or confession alone to God alone, and subsequent positive volition to the communication of biblical truth.
 - (2) **Bibliology or the System of Divine Didactics:** **Revelation** to biblical writers, **Divine Inspiration** to writers to record what was revealed, **Interpretation** by pastors from the original languages, **Communication** of divine revelation to their flocks, **Illumination** of believers through the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, and **Animation** by the Holy Spirit for application of what has been taught to life and circumstances.
 - (3) **The Mechanics:** The Grace Apparatus for Perception or Operation Z. **Communication** by pastor-teacher, **Illumination** in the believer's soul as academic understanding, **Illumination** in the believer's *kardía* as ἐπίγνωσις understanding of divine revelation, and **Animation** as the guidance of the Holy Spirit to analyze, recall, and apply truth to life and circumstances.
9. This is the system, process, and procedure by which the believer grows in grace through acquisition of the immutable and inerrant Word of God which is "alive and powerful."

VISUAL:
Top and Bottom Circles

VISUAL:
Bibliology:
The System of Divine
Didactics

VISUAL:
Grace Apparatus for
Perception or
Operation Z

10. Now let's go back to the passage that led us to our study of 1 Corinthians 2:9-3:15: Peter's lack of faith confirmed by the Lord in Matthew 14:31, "You of a little faith, why did you doubt?"
11. We join the passage on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples are traveling in a boat toward the western shore of the sea when they are approached by Jesus walking on the water:

Matthew 14:25 - And in the fourth watch [3–6 A.M.] of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea.

v. 26 - When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost [φάντασμα (*phántasma*) an apparition: extraordinary vision]!" And they cried out in fear.

v. 27 - But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Have courage [present active imperative of θαρσέω (*tharséō*): courage & confidence], it is I; do not be afraid [present middle imperative plural of φοβέομαι (*phobéomai*): afraid]."

v. 28 - Peter said to Him, "Lord [Κύριος (*Kúrios*): Lord], if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

v. 29 - And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

v. 30 - But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

v. 31 - Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of a little faith, why did you doubt?"

1. Note that Peter got out of the boat and actually walked on water for maybe two or three steps. It is easy to have a little faith-rest when the seas are calm.
2. But when the gale kicked up and the sea became unstable, Peter got his eyes off the Lord, began concentrating on the wind, lost fellowship with Jesus, and became frightened.

3. Principle: We all have the idea that we are in control when things are under control. We get the idea that we are in the bubble and assume we are in fellowship, and all is right with the world.
4. WRONG! There are over 7-billion people in this world, each packing a sin nature, and they are not afraid to use it. You first.
5. The world is full of its own exigencies that rattle us out of our copacetic state of mind. For Peter, it was the wind which caused fear, loss of fellowship, and carnal status quo.
6. Teaching Moment: “You of a little faith, why did you doubt.”
7. The phrase “of a little faith” is one word in the Greek vocative **ὀλιγόπιστος (oligóπιστος)**: “a small number.” The first component is the adjective **ὀλίγος (olígos)**: “little,” followed by the noun **πίστις (pístis)**: “faith.”
8. Jesus told Peter he had “a little faith,” i.e., enough to get out of the boat onto calm waters. That was more than the other boys could muster. As I would have done, they stayed within the safety of that board-bottomed boat.
9. When the wind blew, Peter lost his inventory of “a little faith” and began to imitate his namesake given to him by Jesus in:
John 1:42 - Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, the son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).¹ (NET)
10. The translation of the “nickname” *Pétros* is “Stone” and, out of fellowship in the middle of the sea, Peter began to sink like a stone.
11. Jesus’ walk on water was a miracle. Peter’s was by faith which only lasted as long as he kept his eyes on the Lord while ignoring all else including the wind.

¹ “This is a parenthetical note by the author. The change of name from *Simon* to *Cephas* is indicative of the future role he will play. Only John among the gospel writers gives the Greek transliteration (Κηφᾶς, *Kēphas*), of Simon’s new name, *Qéphâ* (which is Galilean Aramaic). Neither Πέτρος (*Petros*) in Greek nor *Qéphâ* in Aramaic is a normal proper name; it is more like a nickname” (*NET Bible*, [Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, 2005], 2023, 8sn).