

**Remnant Life Church**  
August 16, 2015  
**Perception vs. Reality**  
**Matthew 14:22-32**

Recognizing and dealing with deception is an important first step in living in the last days. Now we need to take it to the next level - recognizing the difference between our perception and God's reality.

1. Perception – (def) - an awareness of the various elements of ones environment through physical senses.
  - What impacts our perceptions?
  - Part of what we struggle with today is that we are so overly-stimulated that we are not actually very aware of what is going on around us
    - We are, by in large, in a constant state of rushing from one thing to another
    - People do multiple things trying to get tasks accomplished
      - Result is that little gets done well
  - We are less and less aware of detail
    - The test of looking at a picture with multiple images and then remembering
    - It is why perceptions can be so faulty
  - But perception is also up to the individual's perspective – (Height of a person)
2. Perception can be, but is not always, reality
  - a. The problem is that too many think that it is
    - i. "Reality is what I perceive it to be." (Bumper sticker)
  - b. Mirages – on a hot highway or in the desert
3. The Disciples and Peter had many encounters when they were with Jesus that brought their perception up against God's reality
  - a. **READ** – **Matthew 14:22-32**
  - b. Setting of the scene –
    - i. Sea of Galilee is the lowest fresh-water lake on earth and the largest fresh-water lake in Israel
    - ii. A storm on the Sea of Galilee - The cooler air masses from the surrounding mountains collide with the warm air in the lake's basin.
    - iii. The most violent storms are caused by the fierce winds which blow off the Golan Heights from the east.
  - c. Fishermen of that time were very superstitious trying to explain the weather
  - d. It had been a very intense day for Jesus
    - i. He had just been told about His cousin's death (**14:12**)
    - ii. He had fed the 5000 and then sent the disciples out in the boat (**14:13-22**)
    - iii. They had been trying to navigate the relatively short distant (Bethsaida to Capernaum) for approximately 6 - 9 hours
4. Like us the Disciple's perception was based on their knowledge and experience

5. But Peter did manage to see it differently (14:28)
  - a. Peter's perception of his environment was for a brief moment brought under the authority of God's reality.
    - i. Jesus was not bound by the laws of physics
    - ii. He did not operate in fear – (Account of Jesus asleep in the boat – Mark 4:35-41)
  - b. When Peter became willing to step out of the boat he surrendered his perception over to God's reality.
    - i. That moment of faith changed Peter
    - ii. He stepped out of his own perception and into reality
  - c. What circumstances in your life are going to require that you step out of your perception and into God's reality?
  - d. Can this be daily life for you?
  - e. Satan cannot effect God's reality of truth but he can speak lies to us about our perceptions
    - i. Satan's lies of perception vs. God's reality of truth
      1. You are worthless – God died for you and for me
      2. You can't step out and do things for God – I can do anything through God because He gives me the strength
      3. You have sinned and should be ashamed – Jesus paid the price for me and he washed me white as snow
      4. You will never change – Jesus' presence changes everything around it
      5. You are not loved – Jesus living inside of you, is love
  - f. The disciple's boat can represent many things to us today
    - i. Complacency
    - ii. Religion
    - iii. Unbelief
  - g. Step out of the boat and give your perception over to God's reality