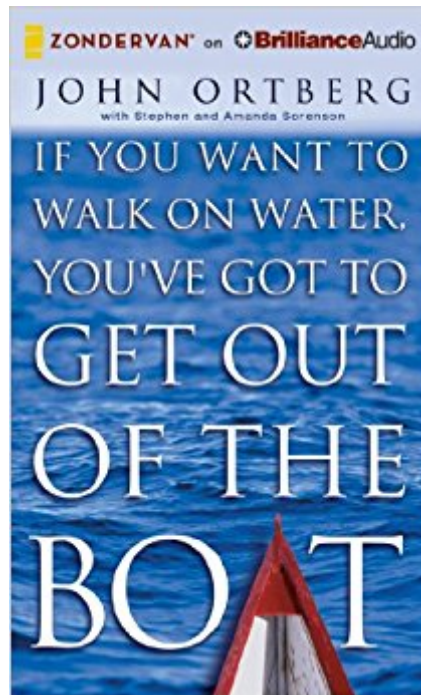




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# If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2002 Christianity Today Book Award! You're one step away from the adventure of your life. Deep within you lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. In what ways is the Lord telling you, as he did Peter, "Come"? John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. The experience is terrifying. It's thrilling beyond belief. It's everything you'd expect of someone worthy to be called Lord. The choice is yours to know him as only a water-walker can, aligning yourself with God's purpose for your life in the process. There's just one requirement: If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat. John Ortberg is profound without being heavy." —Dallas Willard, author of The Divine Conspiracy

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Ortberg is a teaching pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois. Each week he speaks to thousands of people at the church's New Community services. John has written for Christianity Today and is a frequent contributor to Leadership Journal --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

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across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. In what ways is the Lord telling you, as he did Peter, "Come"? John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. The experience is terrifying. It's thrilling beyond belief. It's everything you'd expect of someone worthy to be called Lord. The choice is yours to know him as only a water-walker can, aligning yourself with God's purpose for your life in the process. There's just one requirement: If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

This read was exactly what I was hoping for when reading the title. John Ortberg not only delves into the heart of God for us to follow him into risk but also provides very emotionally healthy examples of what that looks like. He encouraged me to really step out in faith and be more proactive in the process of engaging with the will of God and identifying areas of staleness in my life. I also loved his advice about gathering a group of wise friends to seriously help in discerning the best for a given situation- he calls it a clearness committee and I think it's brilliant. This book is great for anyone feeling like they need to take some steps forward but are unsure what that looks like or even if it is a good thing. Also the book soul keepers ( and the video driven study!) is a great read for someone really looking to move forward.

Ortberg, my new 'most favorite' author. I glanced at this book a few years back but just bought the kindle version. One of the best books on the study of the parable of the talents and so much more. At some point I believe all of us wonder if there is more? Is there something bigger that I was meant to be or do? What about taking a risk, not foolishly but a risk just the same. When I'm on my death bed what are going to be my potential regrets? If you saw Jesus walking on the water and he said, "Come" how would you respond? Eleven guys stayed in the boat but one got out. He was far from perfect but he got out. And for awhile at least he did do some 'water-walking.' ~Buy the book, read every word. You'll be glad you did!

I ordered this book in hardcover format, thinking this to be a good deal at 5 dollar.[http://www..com/gp/product/0762418745/ref=oh\\_aui\\_detailpage\\_o00\\_s01?ie=UTF8&psc=1](http://www..com/gp/product/0762418745/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s01?ie=UTF8&psc=1) What I didn't realize was the book size being extremely small -- about 2/3 of the size of an iPhone! The small font in this book is very hard to read. The only happy person in my family about having this

book is my 10-year old daughter -- she can now put this book in the library for her American doll. Make sure you don't buy this book at this size -- product Dimensions: 0.6 x 2.8 x 3.4 inches. It's simply unreadable.

John Ortberg's, 'If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat' is not new. In fact, since its publication in 2001, it's probably been read by hundreds of thousands of people in the United States (including, I imagine, most of Ortberg's Menlo Park, California, congregation who probably have personalised autographed copies) and around the world thanks to and other distribution networks. So, what's it about? Well, the title gives us the gist. This is a book about walking, water and boats. But with a bit more information, as in: 'If you want to be Jesus' disciple (and walk on water), you've got to get out of your boat', we're getting closer to the heart of the matter. Yet questions remain. For instance, why would anyone want to walk on water and isn't that dangerous? What if I just stay put? Will I ever get back into the boat? And will I have to leave it again anytime soon? It's time to turn to the Bible for answers and this is Ortberg's intention, of course. Based on Matthew 14: 22-32 (see parallels Mark 6:45-52; John 6: 16-21) Ortberg expounds what is, in his opinion, '... the most unforgettable walk of all' (p. 9). Following the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus sends his disciples across the lake in a boat. Some time later in the middle of the night, a terrible storm breaks out and the disciples begin to fear for their lives. They see a figure coming towards them. Is it a ghost? No, it's Jesus passing by. He calls out: "Take Courage! It's me. Don't be afraid". Then Peter does a remarkable thing. He replies, "Lord if it's you tell (command) me to come to you on the water". Jesus says, "Come". Peter gets down and immediately experiences God's boundless power for a few moments until he thinks of the wind, loses faith and starts to sink. Fortunately, in another extraordinary move, Jesus prevents Peter drowning by stretching out his hand. They both get into the boat and the wind dies down. Imagine what the other disciples said and thought after all that! They'd seen the true Son of God and rightly started worshipping him. But, this is more than an incredible story. Indeed, it's a sermon, a sermon series and a book in the making about many of Ortberg's favourite topics: trust, faith, growth, maturity, strength, courage, waiting and learning (through Jesus). Chapter 1--'On Water-Walking'--is a well-written yet curious thing. Ortberg sets out to explain what goes into making a water-walker (essentially, if you intend to defy physics then you'd better know what's involved in getting out of the boat) by giving us 'an arial overview' of the entire book. This is a good schema-activating technique but who's going to be motivated to read further when you know what's coming next? Well, me because I need to find out what my personal boat (defined as, the thing that produces fear in me,

especially when I think of leaving it behind and stepping out in faith (p. 17)) is. Clearly, there's more to explain. Here are the main directions in Chapters two to ten as I don't want to spoil your reading: Chapter 2 assesses the drawbacks of not getting out of our boats and the great benefits of using our God-given gifts to the fullest. Chapter 3 asks how clear are we about our sense of calling to work for and with God. We need to get out of our boats with discernment and wisdom, not on an impulse. Chapter 4 describes and explains the necessary risk-taking involved in walking on the water. Chapter 5 teaches that resiliency in the face of life's problems leads to the development of control and the demonstration of initiative in our lives. Chapter 6 explains that fear and worry weaken and prevent us from trusting and obeying God. Chapter 7 illustrates that failure can be a great motivator in making us stronger, more vigorous and more courageous. Chapter 8 is about the hope that keeps us focussed on Jesus. We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength (see Philippians 4:13). Let's think about something better that's to come. Chapter 9 reasons and illustrates that waiting (on the Lord) requires patient trust, confident humility and quietness. Chapter 10 advocates worship as an expression of understanding of who God is and what he is doing in our lives. My recommendation The in-cover praise for 'If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat' is highly complementary. The adjectives used to describe Ortberg's writing include: engaging, humorous, clear, compelling, honest, practical, insightful, motivating, profound, winsome and challenging. I'd say all of these things apply in one way or another depending, of course, on where we start. For my part, I think this book has helped me identify some issues in my discipleship journey (my personal boats, if you will) I can work on and I think many others can usefully do the same. So, this book is worth a read, but take my advice and skip over some parts of the text that are in my opinion bent out of shape to fit the 'humour'. [Blog](#) | [\[...\]](#) [Facebook](#) | [\[...\]](#)

I read the book about 6 years ago when contemplating a career change. The biblical principles brought to light in the book were a huge encouragement to me then, and are as I am now just finished reading it again. I'm again in the midst of, not only a career change, but seeking to just be more obedient to The Lord in all areas of my life. This book I would highly recommend for those who, like me, tend sometimes to get discouraged, fear failure, and need encouragement to move forward. Mr. Ortberg's sense of humor, coupled with sound biblical principles, have helped me to feel better about stepping out on faith. He helps you to see that you are not in a "boat" by yourself. You're not the only one who had had reservations about changes or new directions in life. I wholeheartedly give this book a 5-star rating!

We just started this study. The DVD is excellent and very engaging! I would highly recommend these materials to anyone who wants Christian study materials in an easy to use format that promotes discussion.

I enjoyed reading this book with my Journey growth group. This book has helped me to understand Faith and strengthen my encouragement. All is good with God.

John Ortberg has quickly become my favorite Christian author. He again uses wit and humor to make very serious material very enjoyable. I didn't want it to end. Taking our first step (getting out of the boat) toward discovering what our unique calling from God is can be very scary, but this book gives great insight into how to manage it. It also covers the very important topic of getting to know God better. You will love it.

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