

Jesus said: Be of good cheer; it is I; he not afraid."

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ delivered man from fear in the days of his flesh and whose risen presence has led multitudes out of the darkness of superstition and error into thy marvelous light, help us to hear his strong voice summoning us from fear to trust.

Strengthen us when we fall into fear of public opinion, when we let the pressures of daily life harass and fretter us.

Uphold us when we become fearful of ourselves, unable to control our thoughts or to check our anxieties, and when we become victims of our undisciplined past.

Encourage us when we give way to fear of failure, when we brood over the hosts of time and bewail the fact that we have done so little, when we hesitate to attempt what we have come to feel is beyond our strength.

Have mercy upon us when we are afraid to launch out into the deep and fumble around the shallows of life, when we seek to prowl rather than to extend, to gather rather than to distribute, to secure our future rather than to step forth into thine.

And teach us to heed again the words of our trust-worthy Lord; to hear his "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom," by the joy and power of that Kingdom equip us to face the uncertainties and alarms of life, knowing that nothing can take us out of the Father's hands. —