

Freedom From Fear

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 43:1-2; Matthew 28:1-10

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you . . . you are mine. . . . I will be with you. — Isaiah 43:1-2

Fear comes in all shapes and sizes. Some people are afraid of snakes or spiders. Others may have a fear of heights, enclosed spaces, or public speaking. Many fear failure, change, dying, or being alone. Still others live each day in very real fear of persecution, oppression, discrimination, and physical harm.

This world can be a scary place, and fear is something we all must face.

The Bible tells us, “Do not be afraid!” Again and again we read of God’s coming to his people with such comforting and empowering words as “Do not fear. I am with you. I am your God and will never forsake you. You are mine.” In the story of Jesus’ resurrection, both the angel at the tomb and Jesus on the road began their conversation with the women by saying, “Do not be afraid. . . .”

The women’s encounter with the supernatural was overwhelming, and their fear was real. But the power of the resurrection assures us that the Lord cares for his people and is with them in whatever times may come.

Because Jesus rose again and is with us always through his Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20), we can have freedom from fear because we are never alone. In God’s presence and strength we can face whatever comes.

Prayer

Lord, you are always with us. Remind us of your power and fill us with your courage to face our fears, knowing we are never alone. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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