

Redeemed Souls Freed from Fear

Charles Haddon Spurgeon
(1834-1892)

"Fear not: for I have redeemed thee." ~ Isaiah 43:1

I was lamenting this morning my unfitness for my work, and especially for the warfare to which I am called. A sense of heaviness came over me, but relief came very speedily, for which I thank the Lord. Indeed, I was greatly burdened, but the Lord comforted me. The first verse read exactly met my case. It is in,

"But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not" (Isaiah 43:1).

I said to myself, "I am what God created me, and I am what He formed me, and therefore I must, after all, be the right man for the place wherein He has put me."

We may not blame our Creator, nor suspect that He has missed His mark in forming an instrument for His work. Thus new comfort comes to us. Not only do the operations of grace in the spiritual world yield us consolation, but we are even comforted by what the Lord has done in creation. We are told to cease from our fears; and we do so, since we perceive that it is the Lord that made us, and not we ourselves, and He will justify His own creating skill by accomplishing through us the purposes of His love. Pray, I beseech you, for me, the weakest of my Lord's servants, that I may be equal to the overwhelming task imposed upon me.

The next sentence of the chapter is usually most comforting to my soul, although on this one occasion the first sentence was a specially reviving cordial to me. The verse goes on to say,

"Fear not: for I have redeemed thee."

Let us think for a few minutes of the wonderful depth of consolation which lies in this fact. We have been redeemed by the Lord Himself, and this is a grand reason why we should never again be subject to fear. Oh, that the logic of this fact could be turned into practice, so that we henceforth rejoiced, or at least felt the peace of God!

We are at times troubled by a sense of our personal *insignificance*. It seems too much to hope that God's infinite mind should enter into our lowly affairs. Though David said, "*I am poor and needy, yet the Lord thinketh upon me*" (Psalm 40:17) we are not always quite prepared to say the same. We make our sorrows great under the vain idea that they are too small for the Lord to notice. I believe that our greatest miseries spring from those little worries which we hesitate to bring to our heavenly Father. Our gracious God puts an end to all such thoughts as these by saying "*Fear not for I have redeemed thee.*" You are not of such small account as you suppose. The Lord would never be wasteful of His sacred expenditure.

He bought you with a price, and therefore He sets great value upon you. Listen to what the Lord says:

"Since thou wast precious in My sight, thou hast been honourable [honored], and I have loved thee" (Isaiah 43:4).

It is amazing that the Lord should think so much of us as to give the Lord Jesus Christ for us. "*What is man that Thou art mindful of him?*" Yet God's mind is filled with thoughts of love towards man.

We sing truly,

"So near, so very near to God,
Nearer we cannot be,
For in the person of His Son
We are as near as He."

We are liable to fret a little when we think of our *changeableness*. If you are at all like me, you are very far from being always alike; I am sometimes lifted up to the very heavens, and then I go down to the deeps; I am at one time bright with joy and confidence, and at another time dark as midnight with doubts and fears.

Even Elijah, who was so brave, had his fainting fits. Our experience is as an April day, when shower and sunshine take their turns. Amid our mournful changes we rejoice to hear the Lord's own voice, saying, "*Fear not: for I have redeemed thee.*"

The price is paid, the ransom accepted. This is done, and can never be undone. Jesus says, "*I have redeemed thee.*" Change of feeling within does not alter the fact that the believer has been bought with a price, and made the Lord's own by the precious blood of Jesus. The Lord God has already done so much for us that our salvation is sure in Christ Jesus. Will He begin to build, and fail to finish? It is impossible. If He has redeemed us, He has, in that act, given us the pledge of all things.

See how the gifts of God are bound to this redemption.

"I have redeemed thee, I have called thee" (Isaiah 43:1).

Thus Paul confirms this,

“For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified” (Romans 8:29-30).

Here is a chain in which each link is joined to all the rest, so that it cannot be separated. There is no going back on the part of God, and consequently His redemption will redeem, and in redeeming it will secure us all things. Then Paul continues,

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” (Romans 8:31).

We have been bought with too great a price for our Redeemer to let us slip. Therefore, let us march on with confidence. Oh, how my weary heart prizes redeeming love! If it were not for this, I would lay me down, and die. Friends forsake me, foes surround me, I am filled with contempt, and tortured with the subtlety which I cannot baffle; but the Lord hath said, *“Fear not: for I have redeemed thee.”*

Till He Come (1896)

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