

## Our Fears

I was watching a movie one evening and the main characters were on a Ferris Wheel. I remember my fear of Ferris Wheels when I was a child. I was okay when they kept moving but when they stopped, and I was in the seat at the top of the wheel I became very anxious and scared. I could see nothing in front of me and nothing behind me just the empty space and height. When our children were growing up, they loved carnivals and wanted to go to everyone they saw and naturally there came the day that they wanted to ride the Ferris Wheel. Now no mother is going to tell her children she is afraid of a ride. I did not want them to go alone, just the two of them. So, their dad took our daughter, and I took our son. I thought I was doing quite well despite my fear. I was determined that I would not pass that fear on to them. As we were riding my son turned to me and said, "Mom, you're holding my hand too tight." I then loosened my grip on him, and he did enjoy the ride. I liked the Ferris Wheel at Cedar Point; the seats were wide, and the baskets were enclosed, and the view was terrific. There were other fears I never conquered. One is my fear of water. I hid this fear until my children learned to swim and then I had to hide my fear of them in the water. May I never be afraid to walk toward Jesus.

Peter thought he could do it, but his fear overcame his confidence.

Matthew 14:25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord if it is you," Peter replied, "Tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," Jesus replied. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. "But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," Jesus said, "Why did you doubt?"

Lord, we thank you that you are with us through our fears and doubts. We thank you for our blessings and for our shelter our food and clothing. Help us to reach out to those who have nothing, the homeless, the hungry, the forgotten. We thank you for our church and for the freedoms we enjoy. Be with those who are suffering from disasters, those without freedom. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. They are in our midst in our church. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and watch over him and his family. Bless our church that we may be your instrument. Be with our leaders and staff, guide and protect them. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

Grace Epperson