

Rehearsing the gospel (from M&M's Arise - For He is Risen!)

They will surely be just fine. Therefore, when the time comes for trouble and hardship, they will delight greatly. So, wake them up for their workout. Please!

Almighty, infinite Father, we fall down before you today as glorious saints who love and worship you, and as weak sinners in need of your forgiveness and grace. Like Abraham, we are often far more ready to fall down and laugh at your promises than we are to fall down in awe and wonder at your perfect holiness and astounding love. Your call to walk blamelessly before you weighs heavily on our hearts. Some of us are very aware of just how short we fall from this command, and we are full of fear and dejected with disappointment in ourselves. Some of us are very blind to our sin and foolishly imagine ourselves to be doing quite well. Lord thank you that your mercy is more than a match for all our sins of self-hatred and self-righteousness.

As we struggle and fail to live lives of perfect holiness, we thank you for Jesus, who walked blamelessly in our place for thirty-three long years. When Satan tempted him to fall down in worship before him, he chose to obey with absolute faith in you and spotless holiness. With great love and confidence in your promises, he took on all the blame for our disobedience and prideful self-righteousness. But his goodness and death, we are rescued forever from ourselves. Thank you for such a precious redeemer and friend.

Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit and give us faith to believe your promises and live in joyful, confident hope that everything you say is true. When sin threatens to reduce us to despair, show us the covenant love of your Son, crucified for us. Grant us the ability to fall down before the cross each day in confession and repentance, and the grace to shake off our guilty fears and rise with great rejoicing. May the Lord's Supper be a sign and seal to us of your faithful covenant keeping on our behalf, so that we may be strengthened by it to live as pardoned and reconciled sinners who are dearly cherished by their heavenly Father. Give us growing delight in the blamelessness we have in your wonderful Son, and growing strength to live in holiness and obedience to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Barbara Duguid

Every transgression in the covenant, though it displease the Lord, yet does not throw us out of covenant, and therefore God's just rebukes must not drive us from our hope in his mercy. The fixedness of God's choice is owing to the freeness of it; we may therefore hope he will not forsake his people, because it has pleased him to make them his people. Had he chosen them for their good merits, we might fear he would cast them off for their bad merits; but, choosing them for his name's sake, for his name's sake he will not leave them.

Matthew Henry