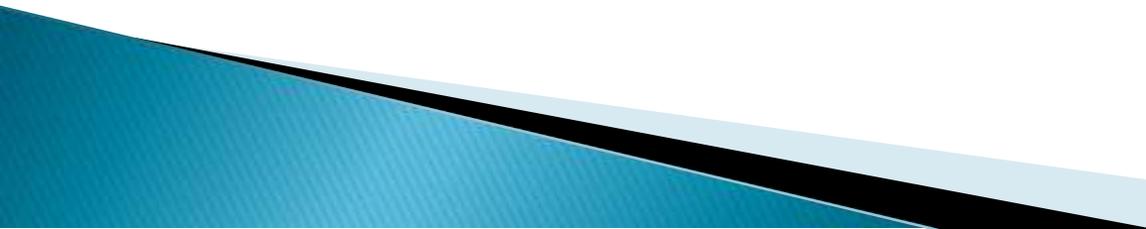


Complete the Quote

“The only thing we have to fear is
_____”

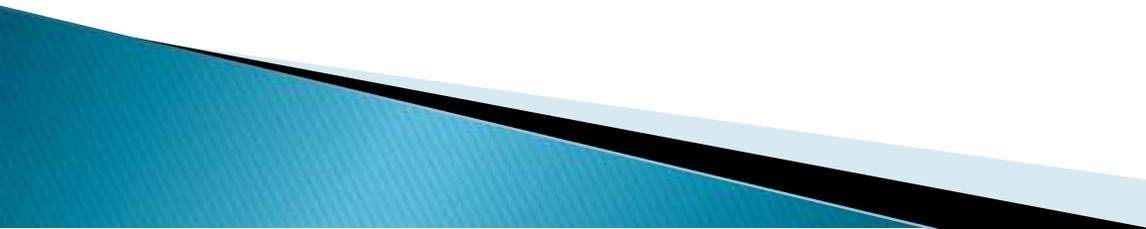
Franklin Roosevelt



Complete the Quote

“The only thing we have to fear is
fear itself.”

Franklin Roosevelt



Healthy Fears

❖ Fear of the Lord

- ❖ ²⁶ Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.
- ❖ ²⁷ The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.

Proverbs 14: 26–27

❖ Fear of Injury

❖ Fear of Punishment

❖ Fear of Disappointing Another Person

(This can be good or bad.)

Has fear ever affected our faith?

- ▶ Do we shy away from opportunities to share our faith?
- ▶ Are we afraid to do the right thing?
- ▶ Am I the right person?



Shying Away From Opportunities to Share our Faith

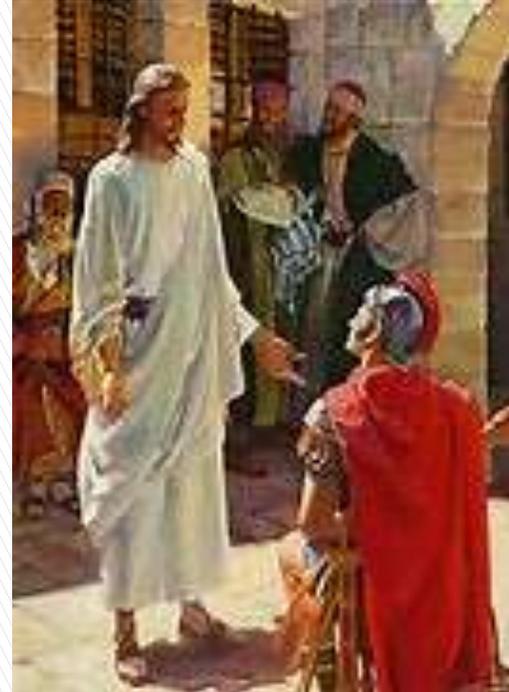
- ▶ Concerned about our image.
- ▶ What if I don't know what to say?
- ▶ What if I am rejected or lose a friend?
- ▶ Do my actions back up my faith?



My faith is more important than my image.

▶ Faith of the Centurion

- ▶ He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”
- ▶ ⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Luke 7:6–9



If I do the right thing, how will I be viewed?

Always do the right thing no matter what others say. It is you, not them, who have to face the consequences.

- Leon Brown -

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When you do the **right things** in the **right way**, you have **nothing to lose** because you have **nothing to fear**.

- Zig Ziglar

Peter does not do the right thing out of fear.

- ▶ ⁵⁵ And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them.
- ▶ ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."
- ▶ ⁵⁷ But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said
- ▶ ⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."
- ▶ "Man, I am not!" Peter replied.
- ▶ ⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."
- ▶ ⁶⁰ Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.
- ▶ ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.
- ▶ Luke 22: 55-61

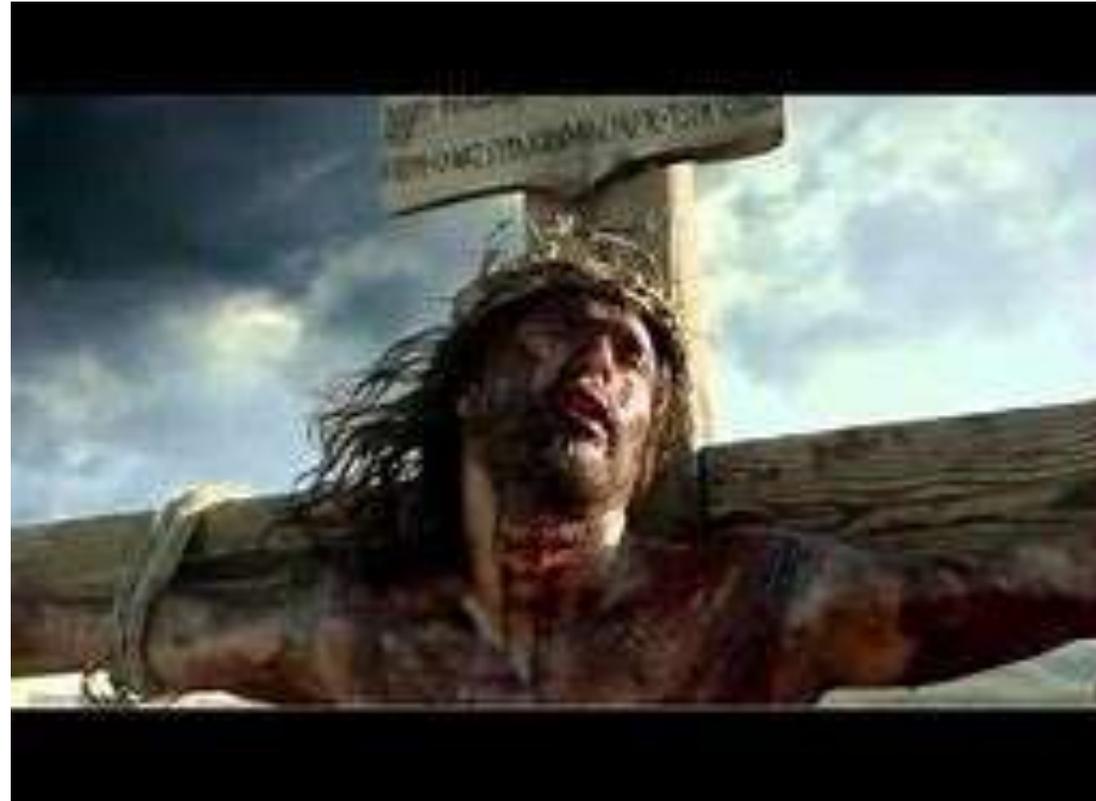
Peter overcomes his fear and does the right thing.

Peter Addresses the Crowd

- ▶ **14** Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. Acts 2: 14



When we are concerned about our faith
messing up our image, we should remember
this image.



What should I say?

▶ Moses and the Lord

- ▶ ¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”
- ▶ ¹¹ The LORD said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.” Exodus 4: 10–12

▶ The Holy Spirit’s Help

- ▶ ¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands.
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth.”
John 14: 15–17

Overcoming Rejection

▶ Jesus Doubted by His Family

▶ ² But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, ³ Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. ⁴ No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵ For even his own brothers did not believe in him. John 7:2-5

▶ You will be Blessed

▶ ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12



I am worthy to share?

Paul's Darkside

- ▶ ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.
- ▶ ⁸ And Saul approved of their killing him.
Acts 7:59–8:1

Overcoming Your Past

- ▶ ¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."
- ▶ ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."
Acts 9:13–16

When you are trying to serve God, you are the right person.

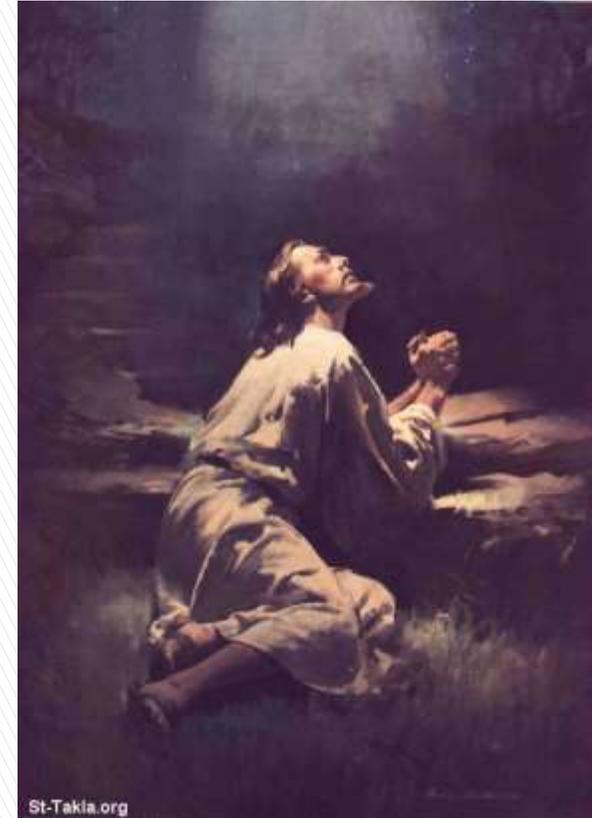
- ▶ ³² David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”
- ▶ ³³ Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”
- ▶ ³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth.
- ▶ When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” 1Samuel 17:32–37



Jesus Knows Fear

- ▶ ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Luke 22: 41-44



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Some Advice About Fears



**If you want to conquer fear, don't
sit home and think about it. Go
out and get busy.**

Dale Carnegie

We are not in this alone.

The Great Commission

- ▶ ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt 28: 16–20