

SPEAK

Speak to me

Speak to me of faith.
 Help me to believe
 In what I cannot touch,
 In Someone whom I do not fully
 understand,
 And yet,
 Help me to put my faith
 In Him
 For now and forever.

Speak to me of hope.
 Despair I can get anywhere.
 I can buy pessimism
 For the price of a newspaper.

Help me believe in tomorrow,
 To know it has meaning,
 Fulfillment, and purpose.
 Help me believe in tomorrow
 Because you will be there,
 And
 Because Jesus will be there.

—Attributed to Ulrich Schaeffer

SOMEONE is praying

By Joanie E. Yoder

It was dawn, and I was painfully aware of being only a few weeks into widowhood. After another restless night, I felt too weary to pray for myself. "Lord," I sighed, "I need someone to pray for me right now."

Almost instantly God's Spirit comforted my distraught mind with the verse, "He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25), reminding me that Jesus was praying for me that very moment.

With a wave of relief, I acknowledged Him as my lifelong intercessor. I will never forget how that bleak morning became gold-tinged with hope. Since then, I have drawn courage and strength countless times from My faithful High Priest.

Are difficult experiences creating fear in your heart? By all means, ask others to pray for you. But don't forget to count on the prayers of Jesus Himself, praying around the clock for you.

Are you purring?

The best parable of trust we have in our home is our cat, Clement of Alexandria. (He had a companion cat, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, but a local coyote ate the archbishop recently.) When our cat goes outside, he lives in terror. He looks around as though it's a jungle, and he is terrified.

But when he comes in the house, he lies on the floor right between the kitchen and the dining room—where we walk most frequently—and falls asleep in total trust. My wife Kathy or I could squash Clement's head, but he trusts us. Our cat lives in complete, total confidence in his human companions.

In this connection, I think the best animal synonym for faith is purring. Every time I see Clement just lying there, I say to myself, *That's what Jesus wants me to do—to trust Him.* The kind of trust the cat shows in us is the kind of trust the Lord invites from us.

—Dale Bruner

Faith walks softly inside my head,
 Like little cat paws across my bed.
 God whispers softly from above,
 "I sent My Son to show you love."

—J. Mobley

"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me!"

—Robert Murray McCheyne
 (1813–1843), pioneer
 missionary to America