

Close your eyes and walk in faith and in surrender, and fear will disappear. And when the light dawns again, you will say that you have walked aright. This fear arises partly from the withdrawal of all visible strength and support. It is with you as with a little child who is always afraid of falling, while all the time his mother is holding him firmly by the reins behind, without his knowing it. But, if he stumbled or were about to fall, at once he would feel his mother's hand holding him. No, my dear child! there is no danger; your mother is near. Although she is not before your eyes. The more afraid you are, the more likely you are to stumble: but if you were about to fall, you would be conscious at once of something in you, I know not what, drawing you aside or so directing outward things that nothing would happen. Trust the hand of God, holding you, although you

cannot see it, and rely on the leading-strings of His divine providence.

And, even in the greatest suffering, do you not feel within you an inextinguishable, if obscure and secret, longing for the simple, innocent, gentle, blindly trusting nature of a child and for the inner life? Yes, and from time to time, do you not feel a comforting impression coming from beyond your own understanding and outward activity, of the deep-rooted certainty that God wants you to attain it in that way.

God became a child so that the repentant might see that He forgets their sins and forgives like a child and is not angry like a hard man. This child gives us faith and confidence.