

Friday 23 April 2021

Is.7,4: *"Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart."*

1Cor.16,13: *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."*

Every so often in our faith we realise that we have lacked courage, that we have not been strong in adversity, that we have let forceful voices and opinions cause us to lose heart and stray from a recognised truth or from a path we know to be right.

That can be a time of sorrow. But then we must let it be an opportunity of learning. The many examples of men and women who acted faithfully and hopefully with great calm and courage point us not to psychology but to the Word of God and to prayer which by being made use of nourish and strengthen faith, assure us of grace and enable us to grow.

A German author in his memoirs of WWII wrote about a person who in the midst of a bomb attack would get up from where people were sheltering and calmly do the right thing even at the risk of injury and death. "You could be sure," he wrote, "that this was a praying person."

By Word and prayer, especially in trying times, we learn God's en-couragement.