

I Want a Principle Within

Charles Wesley, 1749.

Ludwig Spohr, 1834.

I want a principle within of watchful, godly fear,  
A sensibility of sin, a pain to feel it near.  
I want the first approach to feel of pride or wrong desire,  
To catch the wandering of my will, and quench the kindling fire.

From Thee that I no more may stray, no more Thy goodness grieve,  
Grant me the filial awe, I pray, the tender conscience give.  
Quick as the apple of an eye, O God, my conscience make;  
Awake my soul when sin is nigh, and keep it still awake.

Almighty God of truth and love, to me Thy power impart;  
The mountain from my soul remove, the hardness from my heart.  
O may the least omission pain my reawakened soul,  
And drive me to that blood again, which makes the wounded whole.