

God's Promise to the Frightened

Hebrews 13: 1-2, 5-6



**Richmond Centre turns ghost town
as stores shutter during COVID-19**
– Richmond News, March 19, 2020



- Don't worry about tomorrow; God is already there*
- God will be with us, no matter what happens*
- God will never forget His children*

Hebrews 13: 1-2, 5-6

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. . . .⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”

Strong emotions

⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

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What can mere mortals do to me?” (Heb. 13: 5-6)

A choice: money or God?

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13: 5)

What do we really need right now ?

- God's promised presence?
- Money and what it can provide for us?

To whom has God promised His presence?

“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” (Gen. 28: 15)

To whom has God promised His presence?

Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: ... ² “I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. ... ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, ... ⁸ The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” (Deut. 31: 1-2, 6-8)

To whom has God promised His presence?

- Jacob – on the run
- His people – about to enter Promised land without Moses
- His people – afraid and discouraged as exiles

To whom has God promised His presence?

I said, 'You are my servant';

I have chosen you and have not rejected you.

¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

For I am the LORD your God

who takes hold of your right hand

and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

... I the LORD will answer them;

I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

(Isaiah 41: 9b-10, 13, 17b)

To whom has God promised His presence?

- Jacob, taken things into his own hands and made a mess of it
- His people, uncertain about the future, with fierce and dangerous battles ahead
- His people, afraid and discouraged as exiles

Don't be afraid or discouraged – WHY?

I said, 'You are my servant';

I have chosen you and have not rejected you.

¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

For I am the LORD your God

who takes hold of your right hand

and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

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(Isaiah 41: 9b-10, 13, 17b)

Forsaken means ...

- Completely alone
- Without any help
- Without any friend
- Without any hope
- Utter misery and despair

God's promise those feeling "forsaken"

... God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?” (Heb. 13: 5-6)

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory. (2 Cor. 1: 20; NLT)

We have God's strongest guarantee

- English translations have these words available:
NOT & NEVER (Neither, nor)
- Greek text uses 5 negatives
- Οὐ μή (ou me): never, certainly not, not at all, by no means
- Οὐδέ (oude): moreover not, neither indeed, not even, nor even
- Regardless of how (*oude*) is translated, it means: If “A” (preceding statement) *isn't* true (valid) – then “B” (which extends from it) is also *not* valid

God's strongest guarantee

- Οὐ μὴ σε ἀνω(ou me se ano): **never will I let you go**
- Οὐδὲ οὐ μὴ σε εγκαταλίπω (oud ou me se egkatalipo):
never will I leave you behind

- **Never! Never! Never! Never! Never!**
 - Spurgeon's title for his sermon on Heb. 13: 5

The “Never! Never! Never! Never! Never!” Promise

- I will never leave you (5 words)
- 5 “never”
- 5 fingers on our hands

Let's review: Hebrews 13: 5-6; NLT

⁵ Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said,

“I will never fail you.
I will never abandon you.”

God's promise



⁶ So we can say with confidence,

“The LORD is my helper,
so I will have no fear.

What can _____ do to me?”

During these uncertain times ...

- ON WHAT are you depending for security?
- ON WHOM are you depending?
- WHO is with you all the time?

- CAN YOU say with confidence?
*The Lord is with me no matter what happens.
He is my Helper; so I will not be afraid!*