God is With Us, Forever - Hebrews 13: 5-6

Ed Hudson – 18 Oct 2026

As Christians, the Bible tells us we will continue to experience trials, sickness and suffering. You probably noticed that the above list also applies equally to non-Christians. It is impossible for the future to be without trials, problems, set-backs whether we are believers or non-believers. If this is true, and I believe it is, then our question needs to be rephrased to, what is the advantage of being a Christian over being a non-Christian? God, his wonderful unconditional love, mercy and grace assures us that we have nothing to fear.

Heb 13:5 (NLT) So, we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?" Instead of the word "abandon" some translations use the word "desert" or "forsake". **Deut 31:6** (NLT) In whatever circumstance or situation in life you are in, you can find tremendous strength and comfort in knowing that you are never alone. Since Christ has promised never to leave you nor forsake you, He will be with you wherever you go. This knowledge sustains us and keeps us going in whatever new or unfamiliar situation we may find ourselves in.

Matt 28:20 (NLT) - According to Jesus himself he is promising not only to never leave us or forsake us but to do so for ever and ever, it is a forever promise. We could not ask for a more secure commitment, encouragement, comfort, support or help than what Jesus has promised us. With Christ in us He brings comfort to our souls because He is none other than almighty God Himself, who has full authority in heaven and in earth. When He lived on earth, Christ revealed His supreme authority over the winds and waves, over every kind of sickness that was brought to Him, and even over all the demons and spirits that trouble mankind. He who abides with you, He is the One who rules over all things, and who ordains all things to happen according to His sovereign will! No one can ever oppose Him or stop Him from doing whatever

He wants to do for you. And nothing can ever happen to you without His permission. Even Satan cannot tempt you or test you unless Christ first allows him to do so (Life Bible Presbyterian Church). And He who abides with you is the One who loves you very dearly. In fact, He loves you more than anyone else has ever loved you. He loved you with an everlasting love long before you even knew Him. He loved you even to the extent to sacrificing His life for you on the cross and shedding His precious blood to atone for all your sins. He even loves you more than some of us love ourselves. With such infinite love as well as infinite power found only in Him, there can be no one else better for you to abide with than the Lord Jesus Christ! (Life Bible Presbyterian Church).

Heb 13:5 (NLT) Notice the two attitudes Paul is addressing here. We should not

covet the things of this world because they are not God's will for us. And, we should also not fear what man shall do to us, since they cannot harm us unless God allows it to happen. Many people today covet material wealth. They strive very hard to gain it. Even if you were to gain all the material wealth in this world as your possession, they can only be yours for a while. Imagine if this was not the case. We would have one family or may be a couple of families owning the whole world. There is a saying, one generation makes the wealth, the next enjoys it and the third generation loses it. Material wealth cannot satisfy you, nor can it abide with you forever.

But if you are a Christian, you have the Lord Jesus Christ with you. And this is one possession you have that will never ever disappoint you. Unlike all the things of this world, Christ can provide comfort deep within your soul. And unlike all the things of this world, Christ can abide with you forever. Covetousness, or if you like, a strong desire for material things, is strongly condemned in the Bible. Jesus said it defiles a man, and that we should beware of it. **Mark 7: 21-23** - NLT; **Luke 12:15** - NLT). Paul teaches us that covetousness; keeps one out of the kingdom of God (**1Cor 6: 9-10** NLT); and like fornication, should not even be named among us (**Eph 5:3** - NLT) and furthermore, it Is nothing less than idolatry (**Eph 5:5** – NLT and **Col 3:5** - NLT).

Phil 4:11-12 (NLT) Paul is telling us we overcome the temptation to covert by being content with all things and in all situations! So, “contentment” is the cure stopping us from falling into the trap of coveting. This is not easy since we are surrounded by every device being thrown at us to desire what we do not have. The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. Who among us can resist such an onslaught against us?

How is it possible for mere mortal man to be content with all things in all situations? Only those in Christ are able to experience this because Christ is sufficient for all our needs. This does not necessarily mean that He will provide all that we want. It only means that He will provide whatever we need. Someone has put it this way - 'He provides for all our needs, not for all our greeds.' And even when we find ourselves deprived of physical comfort, or of the things we need, Christ promises that His grace will be sufficient for us to bear such deprivation (**2 Cor 12: 7-9** NLT). This means that He will give us the strength and ability to bear the pain or loss, so that God's purpose in our lives may be accomplished. You may recall some months ago in another message I gave I provided evidence that this world knows this and exploits it in every shape and form. Behavioural psychologists (Kahneman and Taversky) found that humans place a far greater value on a loss than we do on a benefit. As Paul stated above, we are made strong in our weakness through Christ in us. Of ourselves we lack the power to resist this human proclivity. Only Christ has overcome all of this world’s temptations. He has the power and authority we need, but do not have. We need Him. He does not need us. Do we believe Christ’s promise? If you do, you should be bold

enough to respond to His promise by saying with conviction, [6]So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?' This is what **Heb 13: 6** (NLT) teaches - it tells us that we can say these words boldly. The challenge is to have the very same boldness to say this, not now but at times when you face the most difficult trials and tribulation. When you are beset with problems and discouragements, that will be the time when you really need the conviction in your heart that Christ is with you and that He will help you because He and only He has the power and authority to do so.

Let us look at an example. When Paul was in the city of Corinth during his second missionary journey, the Lord spoke to him in a vision, saying … *[9]Don’t be afraid! Speak out! Don’t be silent! [10]For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me.”* (**Acts 18: 9-10** - NLT) This assurance gave Paul all the boldness that he needed to stay on at Corinth for a year and six months despite all the troubles he had to face from the unbelieving Jews there (**Acts 18:11** - NLT).

None of us are Paul, Moses or Joshua yet as mentioned earlier, Christ is in us and he is with us so we need to never fear not having what we need nor, fear anything from man, Satan or his demons. We are able to withstand anything that we may have to experience and deal with regardless of how unpleasant the experience is.

So how do we deal with fear? A good place to start is to identify what the opposite to fear is. When Paul was on trial in Rome toward the end of his life, and all his friends had deserted him, he testified that it was the Lord who stood with him and strengthened him. We read this account in **2 Tim 4: 16-17** (NLT) *[16]The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them. [17]But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death.* This gave Paul all the boldness that he needed to preach the Word of God to all that were present at his trial including Herod himself. Paul was showing agape love for his own persecutors by preaching the gospel. Wow! As each new day can bring new unfamiliar situations, feelings of fear are bound to arise. This is the kind of fear that is mentioned in v.6, the fear of what 'man shall do unto me', has some common features with the attitude of covetousness that we considered earlier in v.5. Both of these attitudes are powerful driving forces in the lives of believers and non-believers: People who are motivated by covetousness will often resort to sinful means to get what they want. In the same way, people who are motivated by fear will often resort to sinful means to escape from what they do not want.

Let us therefore be fully assured that our Lord Jesus Christ will provide us our needs and keep us from temptations and fears. We to, as Paul did, have every good reason to tell others the good news and do everything we can to point non-believers to Christ.

Our job is to be observant for opportunities that God may open up before us so we may not only speak boldly but also act boldly without fear.

In summary I will quote **Spurgeon**; "*Oh, I wish this promise belonged to you all! I would give my right hand if I could! But some of you must not touch it; it does not belong to some of you (nonbelievers), for it is the exclusive property of the man who trusts in Christ (believers). "Oh!" saith one, "then I will trust in Christ." Do it, soul, do it; and if thou trustest in him he will never leave thee. forsake thee Black as thou art, he will wash thee; he will never leave thee. Wicked as thou art, he will make thee holy; he will never leave thee. Though thou hast nought that should win his love, he will press thee to his bosom; he will never leave thee. Living or dying, in time or in eternity, he will never forsake, but will surely bring thee to his right hand, and say, Here I am."*

So, the answer to our question, what is the difference between believers and non-believers? For believers have the promise from Christ himself. "I will never leave you nor forsake you" This is the difference between believers and nonbelievers and we should be overwhelmed with the desire to share this knowledge with those who have not heard of such a rich and unequalled promise of Christ's mercy and grace. What does living with this promise look like? It is truly amazing how the HS works in all those involved in preparing for Sunday services.