

In His Presence There Is Comfort  
(Hebrews 13:5-6)

- A. On several occasions in Scripture, God promised to abide with His people;

He Promised Them His Presence.

Genesis 28:15 (LORD to Jacob)

15 "Behold, ***I am with you and will keep you wherever you go***, and will bring you back to this land; ***for I will not leave you*** until I have done what I have promised you."

Deuteronomy 31:6 (Moses to Israel)

6 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them [the other nations], ***for the Lord your God*** is the one who goes with you. ***He will not fail you or forsake you.***"

Joshua 1:5 (LORD to Joshua)

5 "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, ***I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.***"

1 Samuel 12:22 (Samuel to Israel)

22 "***For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name***, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself."

1 Chronicles 28:20 (David to Solomon)

20 Then David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for ***the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you*** until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished."

Psalms 37:25 (David)

25 I have been young and now I am old, yet ***I have not seen the righteous forsaken*** or his descendants begging bread. ...28 For ***the Lord loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones***; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.

Isaiah 41:10, 17 (LORD)

10 'Do not fear, for ***I am with you***; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. ***I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you*** with My righteous right hand.' ...17 "The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst; I, the Lord, will answer them Myself, as the God of Israel ***I will not forsake them.***"

Hebrews 13:5-6 (The apostle of Jesus Christ)

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, ***being CONTENT with what you have***; for He Himself has said, "***I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,***" 6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY ***HELPER***, I WILL NOT BE ***AFRAID***. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

- B. What I want us to see from Hebrews 13 -- are the blessings that accompany the presence of God: *there is contentment, there is help, and there is the absence of fear.*
- C. The Book of Hebrews provides the foundation for faithfulness to Jesus Christ; it admonishes faithfulness to Christ, because...
1. He is the Creator, He is exalted above all things seen and unseen.

2. His sacrificial life/death ended a temporary covenant and began an everlasting one that provides forgiveness.
3. His resurrection from the dead proved His power over the Devil and Death.
4. His position in Heaven secures for those who follow Him a place in the presence of God the Father.
5. Hebrews, the letter, is full of comfort and hope.
6. And the verses of our text (13:5-6) give a wonderful summary of the entire book.
  - a. "Since these things are true concerning Jesus Christ, be content with what you have. He will not desert you when the going gets tough, He will abandon you for another; He's always near to help when you're afraid."
  - b. Jewish Christians needed to hear that at the time, but don't we all?

[Well, our purpose this morning is to discuss the blessings of God that go along with His presence among His children in Christ (Heb 13:5-6).

The first one mentioned...]

## I. THE BLESSING OF CONTENTMENT

Hebrews 13:5

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, ***being content with what you have***; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

- A. We know what it means to be "content", *it means to be satisfied with what you have*.
  1. And what made that so difficult for the first readers of this passage, was that many of them were losing what they had worked a lifetime to obtain.
    - a. How can you be content when every-thing you worked for has just disappeared?
  2. But they're not so different from us, a glance back in time can remind us that we could find ourselves in the same boat.
    - a. Financial markets are uncertain.
    - b. Our health is uncertain and costly to maintain.
    - c. Family relationships can go awry, and that can use up our resources.

d. And if we live long enough, we may find that everything we worked for must go to healthcare or to a nursing home.

e. The material world is very unpredictable.

B. But the apostle tells us – a blessing awaits Christians who have learned to be **content** with what they have.

1. He tells us that God’s presence ALONE will bring **contentment** to our lives.
2. We have in God the Father and in His Son everything we need to have - to live a life of complete **contentment**.
3. The Book of Lamentations is a dirge over the destruction of Jerusalem, but notice what Jeremiah said.

Lamentations 3:21-24

21 This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. 22 ***The Lord’s loving-kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail.*** 23 They are new every morning; ***Great is Your faithfulness.*** 24 ***“The Lord is my portion,”*** [“I want to share in His faithfulness.”] says my soul, ***“Therefore I have hope in Him.”*** How could Jeremiah have such confidence in the Lord?

Psalms 24:1-3 (David)

1 ***The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.*** 2 For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Psalms 84:11

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; ***the Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*** (That is Matthew 6:33 in the Old Testament).

Psalms 16:11 (David)

11 You will make known to me ***the path of life;*** in Your presence is ***fullness of joy;*** in Your right hand there are ***pleasures forever.*** [So do we lack **contentment**?

**Contentment** is found with the One Who never deserts or forsakes His children.

Our text also mentions a second blessing stemming from God’s presence.]

## II. THE BLESSING OF HELP

Hebrews 13:6

6 so that we confidently say, "***THE LORD IS MY HELPER,*** I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

- A. To be a **helper** means to run to the cry (of those in danger); to comfort them or bring them aid.
  1. The Greek word is two words put together: *to call, to run* – we call, He runs.

B. Many see God as a cruel being watching from above, expecting man to serve His arbitrary interests or to just entertain Him.

1. Many have taken it upon themselves to teach Him a lesson or two about how to take care of the human race.
2. People will say, "Well, if God's not going to **help** us with this situation, then we'll have to do it ourselves."
3. But what the world refuses to accept, is that the human race got itself into the mess it's in by sinning against God.

And now God is telling the world through the gospel of Christ that all the **help** you will ever need to deal with your sins, sorrows and difficulties is offered to everyone who will accept the authority and rule of His Son.

4. That's what our text is telling us; there will always be **help** from God for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Mark 10:29-30

29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that **he will receive** a hundred times as much now **in the present age**, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and **in the age to come, eternal life**."

Psalms 28:7 (David)

7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; **My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped**; therefore my heart exults, and with my song I shall thank Him.

Psalms 33:20 (David)

20 Our soul waits for the Lord; **He is our help** and our shield.

Psalms 121:1-2 (Song of Ascent)

1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? 2 **My help comes from the Lord**, Who made heaven and earth.

- C. Because God is always present, He is able to **help** His children at ALL times, and without fail.

1. He **helps** them when they cannot help themselves.

Psalms 10:14

14 You have seen it, for You have beheld mischief and vexation to take it into Your hand. The unfortunate commits himself to You; **You have been the helper of the orphan**.

2. He **helps** them when they are in trouble.

Psalms 46:1

1 **God is** our refuge and strength, **a very present help in trouble**.

3. He **helps** them when they are discouraged.

Psalms 42:5

5 **Why are you in despair, O my soul?** And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for ***I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.***

4. He **helps** them when they are poor.

Psalms 70:5

5 But I am afflicted and needy; ***Hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer;*** O Lord, do not delay.

5. He especially **helps** them when they hold Him in reverence.

Psalms 115:11

11 ***You who fear the Lord,*** trust in the Lord; ***He is their help and their shield.***

[Is there any question about who can **help** us with our problems, cares, and sorrows?

Our text mentions one final blessing from God's presence.]

### III. THE BLESSING OF THE HAVING NO REASON OR CAUSE TO FEAR

Hebrews 13:6

6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, ***I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?***" (Matt 10:28; Luke 12:5)

A. **Fear** is a feeling or an emotion; "I **felt** afraid."

B. More than that, **fear** is based on experience.

1. An infant doesn't have **fear** of fire until the child has some experience with fire.
2. We say, "I felt **afraid**, because I knew what was about to happen; I had seen it happen before. Past experience caused me to be **afraid** of what was about to happen, or of what that person was about to do."
3. **Fear**, then, is the dread, distress or anxiety that comes from painful, unpleasant **memories**.
4. The recipients of the Hebrews letter had some painful memories of what their people could do to Christians, and they were **afraid**.

Hebrews 10:32-36

32 But ***remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,*** 33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. 34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

C. **Fear** prompts us to act in one of two ways, we either fight or flee, **but this verse (13:6) instructs us to do neither.**

1. On the one hand, don't be violent in expectation of someone being cruel.
2. And on the other hand, don't flee the scene as if you were powerless.
3. The reason? "The Lord is my helper."
4. And with the Lord as our helper, we have every defense necessary against our **fears** (people, situations, conditions).

Luke 12:4-5

4 "I say to you, My friends, **do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.** 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

Matthew 10:28

28 **Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul;** but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

D. Knowing that God is present with us eliminates every reason to **fear.**

1. You know what I think we **fear** the most in life? The uncertainties.
2. As we talked about Sunday night, there are no uncertainties with God; He sees everything with perfect clarity.
3. So rather than **fear** the world, we should just stand next to Him.

Psalms 91:1-2

1 **He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.** 2 I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" (91:5-10; Deut 20:3-4; 31:6).

Jeremiah 1:8

8 "**Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,**" declares the Lord.

John 14:27

27 **Peace I leave with you;** My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**

[Do you live with **fears**? Do you feel like the axe is about to drop?

Remember, "The Lord is my helper".]

CLOSING

A. A familiar passage of Scripture containing three precious promises and prized blessings for the people of God in the presence of God.

1. Contentment

2. Help

3. Alleviation of fear