

He has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you

This promise of the Lord is found in **Hebrews 13 v5**.

The Amplified translation leaves us in no doubt “He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]”. What strong words.

This promise is recorded first hand in **Matthew 28 v20**. Following His death, burial and resurrection, and prior to His ascension, the Lord Jesus said “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”.

How is He with us? Through the indwelling precious Holy Spirit. Jesus said in **John 14 v16-17** “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth”.

A. Let’s look a little deeper into the meaning of the Lord’s words “I will never leave you, nor forsake you / I will be with you always”

1. The Lord will keep us, and not lose us

John 6 v39 “This is the Father's will which has sent Me, that of all which He has given Me I should lose nothing”. Jesus was speaking of everyone who would believe on Him. So we are what the Father has given Jesus, and Jesus is able to keep all of us who were given to Him. He will not lose us

2. The Lord will not let anyone take us from His hand

John 10 v28-29 “I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand”. God protects His own, and He is stronger than any opposition that we will ever encounter.

3. No one (nor anything) can stop Jesus from loving us

Romans 8 v 37-39 “In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”. This is all-inclusive. Death and life, and everything that now exists and anything that ever will exist cover it all. This gives us tremendous assurance that nothing can stop Jesus Christ from loving us.

B. What is promised when He is with us, or we are in His presence?

1. **Hebrews 13 v5-6** “for he hath said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you. So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”**

2. In **Isaiah 41 v10** God told His chosen people Israel “Fear thou not; for I am with you: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will **strengthen** you; yea, I will **help** you; yea, I will **uphold** thee with the right hand of My righteousness”. We, like Israel, have been chosen. If we were just on our own, there would be good reason to fear. Life is a full of trials, tribulations, traps and snares. But as God is with us, we have good reason **not to fear**. He has promised to strengthen us, help us, and uphold us.
3. **Acts 3 v19** “The times of **refreshing** shall come from the presence of the Lord”
4. **Exodus 13 v14** (Mirrored in New Testament **Matthew 11 v28**) “He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you **rest**”.
5. **1 Chronicles 16 v27** “**Glory and honour** are in His presence” We always have His glory and honour with us.
6. **Psalms 16 v11** “In Thy presence is fulness of **joy**; at Thy right hand there are **pleasures** for evermore”
7. **Psalms 9 v3** “When **my enemies** are turned back, they **shall fall and perish** at Your presence”.

C. So, what is our experience?

Although God is always with us, there are certainly times when our circumstances don't reveal the presence of the Lord. We don't always feel God's presence, and our circumstances don't always look like God is with us. In the natural world we don't always see the sun. There are times when we may go days without seeing the sun, but we know it's there. Likewise, God (the Son) is always there whether or not we see or feel Him.

Why then are we still **not always** experiencing the fearlessness, joy, rest, refreshing etc. that is promised in His presence? Paul gives the first part of the answer in **Romans 8 v38**, where we read that Paul was “persuaded” that these things were true. We must be persuaded of God's presence and all that flows from His presence. We need a revelation of this. As in everything in our life in Christ we need to appropriate by faith what is already given to us by God's grace. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (**Romans 10 v17**). So, like Paul, let's be persuaded, by listening to, reading, and mediating on scriptures regarding the Lord's presence. Then give the Lord praise and thanks for this – the purest expression of our faith.

We then act on our faith by getting into His presence. How? - put God first in our hearts and minds – give Him our attention. Yes, He is always with us. But we are not always aware of or focused on His presence. When our hearts are stayed upon the Lord's presence with us, then what is promised (e.g. fearlessness, joy, rest, refreshing) will manifest to our senses.

This all, of course, assumes that we believe on Jesus, have made Him our Lord, have become one of His children. If you have never done that, then today is the day of your salvation.

In conclusion...

Let's all be encouraged and persuaded that the Lord will never leave us, nor forsake us; that He is always with us.

Let's read and meditate on His Word regarding His presence.

Let's focus on the Lord through each day.

Let's pray for revelation of these truths regarding His presence and a manifestation in our lives of this and all that it encompasses.