

## Free from the Need of Greed

Hebrews 13:5-6

*“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 LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU,’ so that we can confidently say, ‘THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?’”*

It has rightly been said, “He who possesses Him, to whom all things belong, possesses all things.” Let your riches consist not in the *largeness of your possessions*, but in the *fewness of your wants*. Contentment makes poor men rich and the lack of contentment makes rich men poor. But the question for me is, “How do I *make sure* my character is free from the love of money?”

### I. When I discover something captivating about God.

Material things will never become immaterial until the Creator becomes more captivating.

A. God declares, *“I will never leave you or forsake you.”*

The Greek is: *“God has said, ‘I will never, no never, no never leave you or forsake you.’”*

There are five negatives in this one verse. Repetition is how God emphasizes things.

B. He Himself has declared, *“I will never leave you or forsake you.”*

This is not what the preachers say of God, it is what God says of Himself to you.

C. His promise to never abandon you is in terms of the material.

It was originally made to Joshua (see Joshua 1:5) but applies to all believers and has a view toward (1) never being abandoned by God to one’s enemies; (2) never being abandoned by God in time of distress and; (3) never being abandoned by God in terms of needs. “God will supply all your needs according to His riches” (Phil. 4:19). *“I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread”* (Psalm 37:25). The Jews have always observed that the word “forsake” is never used but with respect to one’s *sustenance* in this life.

### II. When I declare something confidently about myself.

*THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?* (Ps. 54:4; Ps. 56:4).

When you trust His promise and you trust Him, then you can confidently declare to others:

A. Men can exert power against me, but men cannot ultimately prevail against me.

B. Men can try to hurt me, but men cannot ultimately harm me.

C. Men can come against me, but they ultimately come against my God.

*“This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The Lord’s lovingkindnesses never cease. For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I have hope in Him.’ The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits quietly for the deliverance of the Lord.”* (Lamentations 3:21-26).

Real faith is coming to God in the absolute absence of any positive feelings or spiritual desires, without any healthy glow or good aspirations, weighted down with low thoughts, failure, neglect, and wondering forgetfulness, and yet being able to say to Him, “You are my Refuge.”