

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Not Far Away

Bill Brinkworth

In Psalm 13, King David found himself in a position he had been previously (Psalm 10:1). Although he was an influential and powerful leader, he had his share of hard times. Some believe this Psalm was penned when he was fleeing from Saul.

“To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?” Psalm 13:1

No matter what the problem was, he felt what so many feel when they too are amidst tribulations. They wonder where God is in their time of need. Often people in that situation feel alone and abandoned by God.

Those in one of life's storms believe if God were by their side that they would not be in the predicament they are facing. They feel that He would not want such a trial in their life.

I have heard many people question God when they find themselves in a similar situation. They often ask why God would allow such an experience to befall them.

Much of the time my answer to these frightened people who believe God may have abandoned them in their hour of need is usually the same:

- Are you really a child of God, as the Father in Heaven looks over His children? Are you born-again into His family (John 3:3)?
- A Christian's test may be lengthy and scary, but God may have allowed it in your life. He knows what you are experiencing. He knows what is best for His children, although we may not.
- We are strengthened and spiritually matured by trials. No godly, spiritually strong person got that way without going through difficult times. Difficulties should and can make a Christian stronger.
- We are to draw nigh unto God when we are in tremendous need, not foolishly shake our fist and blame Him for allowing such a trial to happen.
“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” James 4:8
- Often our situation is from a “wage” of our sin or poor choice. God does not want us to sin because He loves us so much and does not want us to be hurt by

any iniquity. That is why His Word warns us to not participate in it, but so often we do not listen.

- Sin affects and hurts others. Often we reap the terrible consequences of someone else's iniquity.

Often I remind others that all godly, biblical heroes had trials. I reiterate to them how Moses, Jonah, Joshua, John, Noah, and even God's only Son, Jesus, experienced hardships. The Bible is a history book of people's adversities. We certainly are not greater than those Bible heroes, so we too can expect to have difficult valleys in our lives.

My favorite answer to those wondering why they are going through what they are comes from a comment Pastor Mickey Carter once made from the pulpit. The preacher reminded the congregation, "Why shouldn't you go through hard times?" Some feel for some reason they are so special that nothing "bad" should ever happen to them.

We are in a world scarred by sin. It is the root of most difficulties and hardships in this world today. The wages of Adam and Eve's sin affect all even today.

It is a scary feeling when we feel we are all alone and forsaken by God. Christian, do not fall for those crippling thoughts. God promises never to leave or forsake you. You are a child of God, and He is the best parent. He will take care of you.

“Look at that beautiful butterfly and learn from it to trust in God. One might wonder where it could live in tempestuous nights, in the whirlwind, or in the stormy day; but I have noticed it is safe and dry under the broad leaf while rivers have been flooded and the mountain oaks tore up from their roots.” — *J. Taylor*

Trust God’s Promises

Beecher

Suppose I were to set out on a trip to Jerusalem. Before I started, I went to Brown Brothers & Co., a financial institution, and obtained letters of credit for the cities of London, Jericho, and others (This was written when checks were first being used and not always accepted).

With these papers which a child might destroy, which would be but ashes in the teeth of flame, or which a thousand occurrences might take it from me, I went with confidence and cheer knowing that it would entitle me to money.

“As soon as I come to London I shall have the money. I have a letter in my pocket from Brown Brothers & Co. which will give me five hundred dollars there, and in the other cities to which I am bound. I shall be able to buy what I need. At my command, through the agency of these special papers and pen strokes of those enterprising men, I will have the money I need.” I was convinced.

Suppose, instead of this confidence, I were to sit down on shipboard and go to tormenting myself with worry. "Now, what am I to do when I get to London? I have no money, and how do I know that these bits of paper which I have with me mean anything, or will amount to anything? What shall I do? I am afraid I shall starve in the strange city to which I am going."

I should be a fool, you say, but should I be half the fool that the man is who, bearing the letters of credit of the eternal God, still goes fearing all his way, cast down, and doubting whether he shall ever get safe through his journey?

No fire, no violence, nor any occurrence can destroy the "checks" from the Lord. When He says, "... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee ..." (Heb. 13:5) and "... My grace shall be sufficient for thee ...," (II Cor. 12:9) believe it! No longer dishonor your God by withholding from Him the confidence which you freely accord to Brown Brothers & Co. or anyone else.

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." *II Cor. 12:9*

God's Promise to Many

Adam Clarke's Commentary

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Heb. 13:5

The promises of Hebrew 13:5 were spoken to others:

- To Joshua: *“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” Jos. 1:5*
- They were also spoken by David to Solomon: *“And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.” I Chronicles 28:20*

The apostle Paul, in referring to the same promises, felt authorized to strengthen the expressions in Heb. 13:5. The time of Christianity afforded more consolation and confidence in matters of this kind than the old covenant did. His words are very emphatic.

This promise was made to those who are patiently bearing affliction or persecution for Christ's sake and may be applied to any faithful soul in need, temptation, or

adversity of any kind. Trust in the Lord with thy whole heart, and never lean to your understanding for he has promised to never leave you.

“So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” *Heb. 13:6*

He Promised

William Burkitt

“... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” *Heb. 13:5*

The words are a promise, a promise of God, a promise of his presence and providence to assure us of both, and that he will never leave us.

The words are a strong reason to deport from covetousness and to be content. God is present with us. He promises to take care of and provide for us. We have a promise from Him that we shall not want anything good and needful for us. We must allow God this liberty, and give him leave to judge what is needful. Trust in Him with all your heart.

“When you have accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace; God is awake.” — *Hugo*