



Desiring God
Hebrews 13:5-6

Before my 8th birthday, because of my family situation, I experienced many things that many people only experience when they are much older. I learned at an early age what it felt like to feel abandoned and alone like no one was there for me.

My mother died when I was only three. My father became an alcoholic. My step mother divorced my father when I was 7. My older sister married when I was 8. On many occasions, when I thought I needed help, I did not feel that there was anyone I could call. I felt alone and abandoned.

These were difficult times. They lasted until I was a teen. When I was 16, I developed a relationship with a young lady and she became my first serious girlfriend. We spent a lot of time together and talked for hours on the phone. I did not feel alone anymore. I knew someone was there for me that loved me.

And then she dumped me. And within a short time, she was the girlfriend of another fellow. So, I felt alone and abandoned again.

Many bad decisions that we make in our lives are the result of trying to meet a legitimate need in our soul the wrong way!

Feeling alone and abandoned can be very dangerous.

Feeling alone and abandoned can lead to....

- Unhealthy relationships
- Moral compromise
- Wrong philosophies-like the love of money
- Substance abuse

On the evening I was saved, the Holy Spirit spoke to me from this passage of scripture.
Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your character be 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 shall man do to me?"

NAS

I understood this verse to mean that if I accepted Jesus as my savior and Lord, He would never abandon me. I would not have to be alone again; no matter what happened to other people in my life. Jesus Christ would always be there for me.

Here was finally one somebody that I could count on to always be with me.

That night I also came to understand that Jesus defeated sin. Jesus defeated death. Jesus defeated the devil. Jesus took away my judgment for sin.

Because of Jesus, there was nothing that could stop God from fulfilling this promise to me. I accepted Jesus Christ that night.

This promise, I will ever leave you or forsake you, was the first truth about God that caused me to desire Him.

I had never experienced a relationship like that before and I knew that night I would never experience another relationship like that for as long as I lived. I knew no one else could make this promise to me but God.

Some of my most faithful friends in high school and college have moved on with their lives. But God is there.

Some of my most faithful fellow laborers in the church have moved on to work with others. But God is there.

Some of my most faithful loved ones and friends have died and left me. But God is there.

When troubles overwhelm me, and I am all alone, God is there.

When I am hurting and there is no one to hold me and tell me everything is going to be alright, God is there.

When my sins have driven other people away, God is there.

Is it any wonder that David would write this Psalm?

Psalms 139:1-10

1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

5 You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.
NKJV

You do not have to suffer like I did to feel alone and abandoned. You can be raised in an excellent family. You can be surrounded by many good friends. You can be very successful. You can be popular. You can be rich and powerful. You can have all these things and still feel alone and abandoned

Why?

There is a place in your heart that only God can fill!

When God created mankind, He created a place in our hearts that only a relationship with Him can fill. No one or nothing else can fill it. No other relationship can fill it. No activity can feel it. No amount of money or power can fill it. No achievement can fill it.

Until you know that you have that relationship, there will be times when you will feel alone and abandoned.

The promise in Hebrews 13:5-6 is first mentioned in Deuteronomy 31:6-8.

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

31 Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

2 And he said to them: "I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. Also, the Lord has said to me, 'You shall not cross over this Jordan.'

3 The Lord your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the Lord has said.

4 And the Lord will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them.

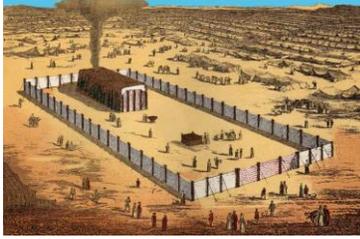
5 The Lord will give them over to you, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you.

6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

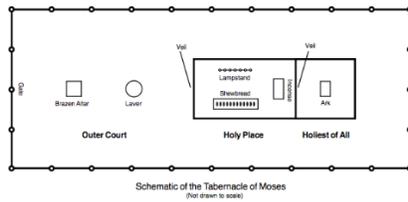
7 Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

8 And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

God chose Israel to be His people from all the nations on the earth. God promised Israel He would never leave them or forsake them.



To give them assurance in this promise, God had Moses and Israel construct a tabernacle for Him. God promised Moses and Israel He would lead the nation from that tabernacle if they obeyed His law.



The tabernacle of Moses had rooms or courts. There was an outer court and an inner court. Within the inner court there was a room called the Holy of Holies. God met with Moses in that inner court.

There was a throne in the Holy of Holies called the ark of the covenant. God told Moses to place His law in that ark.

Because Israel forsook God's law, God allowed the nation and that tabernacle to be destroyed in 586 BC. It was rebuilt only to be destroyed again in 70AD. It has never been rebuilt since then.

After the tabernacle was destroyed, the prophets spoke about a new covenant that God would make with mankind and the tabernacle of God would be in men's hearts.

[Jeremiah 31:33](#)

[33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.](#)

[KJV](#)

In this new covenant, the human heart would replace the Holy of Holies as the place where God dwelt with men.

God promised that this new covenant would be available to all of mankind and not just the Jews.

Hosea 2:23

23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

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Joel 2:28-29

28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

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Through His Son Jesus, God established this new covenant with mankind.

Matthew 26:26-28

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

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He told His disciples that after His death He would give them the Holy Spirit who would always be with them.

John 14:15-17

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever —

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

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One of His disciples named Paul wrote this to the church at Corinth.

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

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2 Corinthians 6:16

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? *For ye are the temple of the living God;* as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

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1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

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Through Jesus Christ, God has fulfilled the promise He made through the prophets to mankind. You can become the temple of God's Spirit. If you will receive Jesus Christ as your savior and Lord, you can experience the promise of Hebrews 13:5-6, I will never leave you or forsake you.

Ezekiel 48:35

35 It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, ***THE LORD IS THERE.***

Jehovah Shammah is the name of the eternal city of God.

In the book of Revelation John, the Apostle wrote...

Rev 21:3

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

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Ezekiel and John said as it was in the days of Moses, the tabernacle of God will be with men in this eternal city.

Until Jesus returns and occupies this eternal city, God wants you to be His temple on earth.

Why would you pledge your greatest loyalty to people that cannot make this promise?

Why would you give yourself to a lesser cause than serving the God that will never leave you or forsake you?

Why would you find your greatest treasure and pleasure in things in this world rather than finding your greatest treasure and pleasure the God that will never leave you or forsake you?

Why would you want to know and be with anyone more than you want to know and be with the God that will never leave you or forsake you?

Why would you want to follow anyone else besides the one that died for your sin so that He could promise you, I will never leave you or forsake you?

Will you receive Jesus for the forgiveness of sin?

Will you receive this promise as God's promise to you?

Will you desire God because no one else can say, I will never leave you or forsake you?