

## No Fear in the New Year

Hebrews 13: 5-6

The author of Hebrews has been a topic that has lent itself to debate down through the ages. We really cannot be certain of whom the author really was, but we can be certain that this book was inspired and given to the Hebrew believers scattered throughout the world.

As I pondered these verses, I was reminded of a “fad” that swept our area a few years ago. Most of you likely remember the “No Fear” ball caps, t-shirts, and window stickers on automobiles. It seemed as if all of the young people embraced this way of thinking. I suppose it was their way of making a statement. It was always quite amusing to me because the majority of them had just recently quit sleeping with a night light. Now, according to them, they were ready to take on the world.

We may laugh, but fear is a reality for many people. In these tough times we are all a bit anxious about the coming year. No one can predict what the New Year will bring. Amidst all of the uncertainty, I rejoice that we can be certain of our future with the Lord. The world is ever changing, but the future of the redeemed was settled before time as we know it began.

The thought we are considering today deals with our fear and how we can overcome it. I want to look at these verses and discover the [principles](#) they reveal. I would like to preach on the thought: [No Fear in the New Year](#).

**I. Our Conversation** (5a) – [Let your conversation be without covetousness.](#) We need to fully understand what is being dealt with in this thought. Here [our conversation](#) deals with much more than our speech. It literally means “*our manner of life, our character.*” Our conversation actually deals with our day to day lives. So, with that in mind, what can we discover about our conversation? Consider:

**A. The Path of Life** – We would not do an injustice to the text to deal with the path of life that we all take. Clearly if the writer is speaking of our [conversation](#), he is concerned with the way that believers actually live from day to day.

- Many among us today believe that we are born into this life and we travel the path that life has set for us. That may be a popular way of thinking, but it certainly isn’t biblical. We have not been placed here to simply follow the ways of the world. God did not save us and then set us out on our own. We have the assurance that God has a particular path that He desires us to take.

- Is.30:21 – [And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.](#) Ps.1:1 – [Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.](#) Mat.7:14 – [Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way,](#)

which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Ps.37:23 – The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

**B. The Peril of Life** – Apparently there was a problem among some of the believers or he wouldn't have been inspired to address it. They were charged to live without covetousness. This is simply “*a love of money, greed, and dissatisfaction.*”

- There can be no doubt that America has become a *covetous* society. Men are driven by money and the desire to have more. Homes are wrecked, businesses are ruined, lives are destroyed, and wars are fought because of greed and covetousness.
- May I remind you that this is a sin? Ex.20:17 – Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. One who covets is not right with God. A heart of covetousness will lead to peril. Prov.15:16 – Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. Eccles.5:10 – He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. God doesn't just warn us of the perils of life without giving us a means of escape. Notice:

## **I. Our Conversation** (5a)

**II. Our Contentment** (5b) – and be content with such things as ye have: We need to consider a couple of things in regard to our contentment.

**A. The Command** – This is not an option for us. We are commanded to be content. This has the idea of “*satisfaction, sufficiency, of enough.*” The opposite of covetousness is contentment. We may not have the riches of this world, but we can be content in the Lord. 1 Tim.6:6-8 – But godliness with contentment is great gain. [7] For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. [8] And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. Just be content in the Lord.

**B. The Consideration** – So what is it that we are to be content with? Be content with such things as ye have. This has to do with our mindset, our focus, and our inward desires. If we are walking the ways of the world, we will desire the things of the world. If we are walking with our eyes on the Lord, it will be much easier to focus on Him and His blessings.

- Most people in our world today don't have the right focus or attitude. Their desire is to accumulate all the wealth and prosperity they can. I suppose they think they can somehow take it with them when they die.

- I am in no way making light of the difficulties that the majority of us face, especially in these tough economic times, but I do want to challenge you to consider the things you have. Has God not blessed us all beyond measure? We all have clothes to wear, food to eat, a place to live, and a measure of good health. God just wants us to be satisfied. Much of what we desire is wants instead of needs anyway. Mat.6:31-32 – Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? [32] (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

## **I. Our Conversation** (5a)

## **II. Our Contentment** (5b)

**III. Our Companion** (5c) – 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. Living without covetousness and possessing an attitude of contentment would not be possible without our Companion.

**A. The Promise** – For He hath said. What comfort we find in that verse. The Lord has promised that He would never leave nor forsake any of us.

- We can rest assured in the promises of our Lord. This world may let you down. The government may make promises that it never intends to keep. Even friends and loved ones may not be able to help in your situation, but Christ has made a promise that cannot fail. He is more than able to meet whatever need we may have. Heb.1:3 – Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**B. The Peace** – I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. That is the promise that Jesus has made. He is an ever present help in our times of trouble. We may be facing troubles unlike any we have ever known, but we do not face them alone. Jesus has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.

- What could possibly come our way that the Lord could not handle? I can assure you that He is not taken by surprise at any of our situations or circumstances. Is.41:10 – Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Rom.8:35 – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Rom.8:37 – Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

## I. Our Conversation (5a)

## II. Our Contentment (5b)

## III. Our Companion (5c)

**IV. Our Confidence** (6a) – **So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper.** If we can't be confident in Christ who could we be? Notice:

**A. Our Hope** – This isn't speaking of a casual acquaintance or the possibility that our case might be heard. We have the hope and assurance of being able to **boldly** trust in our Lord. We have access to the throne of grace. We have the promise of His presence. How could we not be a people of hope with such assurance and stability? We are not serving one who is here today and gone tomorrow. We serve the eternal, omnipresent, omniscient, all powerful God of glory!

- Heb.4:15-16 – For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Eph.3:12 – In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

**B. Our Helper** (6a) – **So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper.** We may look at that and pass it off as one who is there just to assist us, but there is much more involved than that. The word **helper** comes from a root word that literally means “*to run.*” We can live with the boldness of knowing that Jesus will run to our aide in times of distress.

- He revealed a parallel promise in **Jn.14:16 – And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;** Our Comforter is the Holy Spirit. This is the Greek word *parakletos*, “*one who is summoned to the side of another, especially in aide or defense; one who pleads the cause of another.*” Surely you would agree that our Helper is more than able to meet our needs. We can have absolute, unwavering confidence in Him!

**V. Our Courage** (6b) – **So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.** The writer of Hebrews knew something about faith and trust in the Lord. This was a difficult time for the early believers, but they could trust in the Lord.

- We live in an age that is increasingly less tolerant of our faith. They want to silence our voice and rid the world of our influence. There is no need to fear what man shall do to us. We can face the New Year without fear! **Mat.10:28 – And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**
- I can't tell you what the New Year may bring. I certainly hope that things will get better economically, but I really don't expect our world to improve very much spiritually. Even in the face of adversity we can take courage in our Lord. Keep in mind that nothing comes our way that God does not allow. He will provide the grace and strength we need to face the days ahead. We will have to lean upon Him and seek strength for the journey, but I have been bought with a price. I belong to the Lord and the adversary can't touch my soul.

I don't know where you are at in the journey tonight. There may be much in your life that has caused you anxiety and fear. We don't have to live defeated and fearful. There is power in the Lord. If you are struggling, why not come to the Lord and allow Him to help you. You cannot make it on your own, but with the Lord you can!