

Hebrews 13:5-6

How can a person live boldly for the Lord with no concern or fear of what any person says. The answer is in verses 5 and 6 and involve a negative and a positive and these are "two sides of the same coin." In other words, without one of these you can't have the other.

- 5 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.**
6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

1) Let your conversation (life) be without covetous

conversation - τροπος trop'-os Meaning: 1) a manner, way, fashion 2) manner of life, character

The issue we have before us is one of character. Character is what people think of us and what God knows about us. In a modern world where religion, let alone biblical godliness, is mocked and ridiculed there is little value seen in a righteous character. Yet, for a believer in Jesus, character is of utmost importance.

covetousness ἀφιλάργυρος af-il-ar'-goo-ros *philarguros* from *a* = negates + *philarguros* = avaricious
philarguros from *philos* = friend or loving + *arguros* = silver, money
 "Lover or friend of money"

ASV Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have: for himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee.

NKJV Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

ESV Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Thayer's Expanded Definition ἀφιλάργυρος - not loving money, not avaricious;

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:10

Consider what the "love of money" produces and perhaps why some versions translate Hebrews 13:5 "let your conversation [conduct; lifestyle] be without covetousness."

- 1) "love of money is the root of all evil"
- 2) Some who covet money erred (strayed from the truth of the faith) from the faith.
- 3) "Love of money" can lead to many sorrows.

Consider Deuteronomy 8:10-20 Although this passage is speaking specifically about Jewish people, it is applicable for us in relation to "the love of money."

- 10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.**
11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:
12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;
13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;
14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;
15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;
16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;
17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.
18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.
19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.
20 As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

2) Don't be covetous of money.

Luke 12:13-21

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 12:15

1 Timothy 6:9-12; 17

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Proverbs 23:4-5 - Don't make your goal being rich.

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven

The following examples of "love of money" and what it "cost of loving money"

Judas (Matthew 26:14,15)

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10)

- Is it wrong to be rich?

Psalm 62:10 - riches are not wrong just don't trust in them

Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

- Don't be covetous of fame, fortune, a job, personal pleasure, etc.

What should be our goal? 1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Solomon is a great example of someone who "had it all" but eventually realized the emptiness of all of this worlds allurements.

1) Power - 1 Kings 4:21 **And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.**

2) Money - 1 Kings 10:14-23 (666 talents (75 lbs. X 666 = 49,950 lbs. X 16 oz. = 799,200 oz x \$12.85 = \$10,269,720 at today's (5/9/19) price of gold)

So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. 1 Kings 10:23

3) Sexual pleasure - 1 Kings 11:1-3

3 **And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.**

Deuteronomy 17:17

Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

Ecclesiastes 1:2-3

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 12:12

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

3) Do be content with what you have

- 1 Timothy 6:6-8
 - 6 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.**
- Matthew 6:33-34
 - 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**
 - 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

thought - μεριμναω mer-im-nah'-o

Meaning: 1) to be anxious 1a) to be troubled with cares 2) to care for, look out for (a thing) 2a) to seek to promote one's interests 2b) caring or providing for

- Philippians 4:6-7, 11-12
 - 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**
 - 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

Careful - to be anxious

 - 11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**
 - 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**

4) Understand Jesus will never leave thee, nor forsake thee

for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- Friends may leave
- Spouses may leave
- Jesus won't leave

This promise should have resonated with these Jewish followers of Jesus as it is taken from God's promise to Israel as they were about to enter the promised land - Deuteronomy 31:6-8.

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

The use of the double negative ουδε ου μη ου με, oude oo may - a double negative strengthening the denial; not at all - **I will never, never leave thee**

"It would hardly be possible in English to give the full weight of the Greek. We might render it, 'He himself has said, I will never, never desert you, and I will never, never, never abandon you.' Though that would be not a literal, but rather a free rendering, yet, since there are five negatives in the Greek, we do not know how to give their force in any other way." Charles Spurgeon

The promise of the Lord never, never leaving or forsaking us is reminiscent of God's promise to Israel.

1 Samuel 12:22 **For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.**

Ezekiel 36:21-22 **But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.**

Romans 9 - 11 The promises of justification, sanctification and glorification (Romans 1-8) for believers is just as secure as God's promises to Israel.

5) Realize it doesn't matter what man does to us as God is our helper.

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

This verse couples two Psalms

Psalm 118:6 **The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?**

Psalm 56:11 **In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.**

"fear" φοβέω phobeo to frighten, i.e. (passively) to be alarmed; by analogy, to be in awe of, i.e. revere:--be (+ sore) afraid, fear (exceedingly), reverence.

"The most common use of it in the New Testament represents reverential awe, not cringing fright. It expresses the feeling of a person who is in the presence of someone infinitely superior... [Commenting on phobos and phobeo]. In the synoptic gospels and Acts the term is never used to speak of anything other than the feeling in a person's heart when he is confronted with divine power, and it is declared to be a part of the Christian's attitude as he seeks to faithfully serve the Lord (Acts 9:31). Reverential awe of God is a part of the truly repentant life (2 Cor. 7:10-11), the chaste life (1 Pet. 3:2), the holy life (2 Cor. 7:1), and the godly life (Phil. 2:12). Mutual ministry, love, and respect, as well as powerful evangelism and proper church discipline, are all grounded in reverential awe of the Lord (see 2 Cor. 5:11; Eph. 5:21; 1 Tim. 5:20). It is the substance out of which all right Christian worship, behavior, and service must come."

John MacArthur in Matthew Commentary on *phobeo*

We should not be in "fear" of any man - presidents, politicians, police officers, dictators, etc. - because we have put our trust totally in the Lord. We do this by making sure we are "free from the love of money" not living our life based on covetousness.

Focus on the Lord - Romans 8:31-39