

Life Strategy #4

A Promise of Assurance

One of the greatest tests of our faith is in the area of worry. For if we truly believed in the everlasting faithfulness of our God, would we worry? Would there be any need for it? As we prepare to talk about overcoming worry, I would like to start out by giving you some insights that deal with a promise given to us by God Himself, and through an exegesis of this promise we will find great comfort and a repellent against worry. The following is taken from “*Word Studies In the Greek New Testament*” by Kenneth Wuest:

The promise we will look at is **“He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” (Hebrews 13:5)** He Himself means that Jesus Himself personally made this promise. The word “leave” is not from the usual Greek word, which means, “to leave,” but from a word, which means, “to uphold” or “sustain.” In the Greek there are two negatives before the word “leave” presenting a very strong negation. The promise is **“I will not, I will not cease to uphold or sustain you”** Thus Paul can say, “I am strong for all things through the One who infuses strength in me” (Philp.4:13). We are assured therefore, of the sustaining grace of God as we go through trials and times of testing.

The word “forsake” is a composite of three words, “to leave,” “down,” and “In.” The first has the idea of forsaking one. The second suggest rejection, defeat, and helplessness. The third refers to some place or circumstances in which a person may find himself or herself helpless or forsaken. The meaning of the word is that of forsaking someone in the state of defeat or helplessness in the midst of hostile circumstances. The word means in its totality, “to abandon, to desert, to leave in straits, to leave helpless, to leave destitute, to leave in the lurch, or to let one down.” there are three negatives before this word, making the promise one of triple assurance. It is, **“I will not, I will not, I will not forsake you”** not only do we have the assurance of God’s all sufficient sustaining power to hold us true to Him and in perfect peace as we go through times of testing, but we have His promise that He will never abandon us, never desert us, never leave us in straits, but will come to our help, never leave us destitute but will supply all our need, never leave us in the lurch but will see to it that we are rescued from the difficulties in which we sometimes find ourselves. *He will never let us down.* Let this sink deep into your hearts. God will not, under any circumstances, let you down. We have His promise of it.