**Daily Prayer and Encouragement – Wednesday 9th December**

Hebrews Chapter 13 verses 5 – 6

"Be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you". So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid."

Unsure about the future? The announcement about a vaccine has given us some hope, but life is still going to be far from normal for months to come. The restrictions that we are all experiencing are taking all those things we find precious from us. Not able to meet with family and friends, not able to worship without a mask and social distancing from one another and no singing. All this, and many other things have made us unsure about the future. In this time of uncertainty God says to us, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you".

May I share with you a personal experience? I was speaking at a conference in North Wales. One afternoon a group decided to go for a walk. The leader had a map and together we set out with confidence in our leader. After a number of miles the path disappeared and became a disused railway line. As we walked on we came to a tunnel. Our leader assured us that we could walk through it and all would be well. We started confidently, the sun behind us lighting the way. But as we walked further into the tunnel the darker it became. We stopped and debated, do we go back or go on? The leader said "We must trust the map, it says it is safe to go on". Seeing the darkness before us the leader said "Let us hold one another's hands so that we remain together".  Like a great caterpillar holding on to one another behind our leader we moved into the darkness not knowing what was in front of us. After a while we saw a small light and as we continued it got bigger and bigger until we came out of the tunnel into the sunlight.

There are many times in life when it seems so dark and we do not know what is ahead of us. What we do know is God's personal promise to us, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."  He has the map for our life let us hold on to Him and let Him lead us.

"Dear Lord, I do not know what this day will bring, but I do know that you have promised to be with me. I am going to trust you to lead me. Amen.

Every Blessing, Barry Lomax

