What Does the Bible Say About Independence?

Our English Word:

Independence comes from a nice medieval French word, *depenre*, meaning "to hang from," or "to hang down." The *in* at the beginning is Latin for "not," so the word originally meant "not hanging from…" (https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/independence)

Definition of ***independent****:* not dependent, such as **a** (1) not subject to control by others; self-governing; (2) not affiliated with a larger controlling unit; **b** (1) not requiring or relying on something else; not contingent; (2) not looking to others for one's opinions or for guidance in conduct… **c** (1) not requiring or relying on others (as for care or livelihood); (2) being enough to free one from the necessity of working for a living (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/independent)

A Biblical Word with a Similar Idea

χωρίς [koris] adverb – *separately, apart, by itself*; *apart from, without*; *with no relationship to, separated from; independent of*; *outside of*; *without making use of*; *without any relation to* [Friberg] – used 41x in 38v

Examples:

- Matt 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,
- Matt 14:21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.
- Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin.
- Heb 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

What Does the Bible Say that We SHOULD Be Independent From?

1. ***Righteousness through _____ the Law (Works)***
   Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
   Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. (Rom 3:10-28)
   Rom 4:6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:
2. ***_____ and Disputing***
   Phil 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,
3. ***_____ and Doubting***
   1 Tim 2:8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;
4. ***_____ and Partiality***
   1 Tim 5:21 I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

What Does the Bible Say that We CANNOT Be Independent From?

1. ***The Right _____***
   Luke 6:49 "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."
2. ***The _____ Power of Jesus***
   John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
3. ***The _____ Power of Jesus***
   John 15:5 I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
4. ***The _____ of the Gospel***
   Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?
5. ***The Opposite _____***
   1 Cor 11:11 Nevertheless, neither *is* man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.
6. ***_____ In Christ***
   Eph 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
7. ***The _____ of Blood***
   Heb 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
8. ***_____ In God and His Goodness***
   Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him,* for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
9. ***God's _____***
   Heb 12:8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.
10. ***Practical _____***
    Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all *people,* and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: (cf. 1 Pet 1:13-16)
11. ***Active _____***
    James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (cp. 2:18,20)

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