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God's Way of Meeting Our Needs

Philippians 4:19

2nd Corinthians 9:6-13

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'One of the keys to being a person of faith is to learn to claim God's promises.' One of the most well known promises in the entire Bible is found in the Letter to the Philippians, chapter 4, verse 19. It reads, *'My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.'* That's a pretty amazing statement. It's also a pretty broad statement. God says, **'I will meet all your needs according to my riches in Christ Jesus.'** Some people don't understand that verse. Some people say, **'I have needs in my life that are not being met. I have physical needs. I have spiritual needs. I have social needs. I have financial needs. I have all kinds of needs in my life that aren't being met. So why doesn't this verse work for me? Why isn't this promise working in my life?'**

'If that's how you feel, I can tell you one thing for sure 'it's not God's fault that this promise isn't working in your life.' We have to remember that **behind every promise is a premise.** Behind every promise there is a condition. God says, **'If you will do this then I will do this.'** Today we're going to look at the conditions behind the promise that God will meet all our needs. And if you follow those conditions you can count on God to keep His promise to meet all your needs. Now notice that he doesn't say, **'I'll meet all of your greeds.'** What He says is, **'I'll meet all of your needs.'**

'In 2nd Corinthians, chapter 9, we're given the **principle** for God's way of meeting our needs.' Then we're given the **procedure** for living by the principle. Then we're given the **promise.** This information is so important because it will enable you to save money, increase your joy, increase your faith and improve the quality of your life. It takes the mystery out of how God meets our needs.'

Here's the principle for how God meets our needs:

WHEN YOU HAVE A NEED, PLANT A SEED.

2nd Corinthians 9:6 says. ***‘Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.’*** This is the principle of sowing and reaping. ‘When a farmer has a field and he wants that field to produce a crop, what does he do?’ Does he hope for the best?’ No.’ Wishful thinking won’t get him very far. ‘Does he pray about it?’ No.’ Prayer isn’t going to get him very far either. ‘Does he complain about it to others?’ No.’ Complaining isn’t going to get him anywhere. ‘What he does is he goes out and sows some seed.’ Until he sows some seed he’s not going to move in the direction of getting a crop from that field. **‘He has to start by giving in order to receive.’**

There were two farmers and they were both in debt. ‘They both had sacks of seed.’ One farmer says, **‘This is all I’ve got. I’m going to hold on to it. I’m not going to spread it because it’s all I’ve got and once it’s gone, it’s gone.’** That farmer is never going to get out of debt. ‘The other farmer says, **‘Here’s my only sack of seed. I’m going to go spread it on my field and see what happens because I know the only way I’m going to get out of debt is to first give away what I have ‘spread it on my field and see what comes of it.’** That’s the principle God has established for meeting our needs.

What is God trying to tell us with this principle?’ He’s saying that His financial plan for our lives starts with us giving as an act of faith. ‘It’s a test of our faith.’ That may seem illogical to you. ‘You may think, **‘I don’t have enough to give it away. Why would I give away the little I have?’** But God says, ***‘My ways are not your ways.’ (ISAIAH 55:8)*** God wants us to live by faith.

What is man’s way?’ What is man’s way of meeting his needs?’ Typically the first thing a man or a woman does is to borrow what you need. ‘Charge it.’ If you can’t afford it, put it on a credit card. ‘If you don’t have enough, you borrow it.’ Man’s way is to borrow. ‘Man’s second way to get what is needed is to work harder, take on a second job, work overtime, get a little additional income coming in any way you can.’ Some people will beg. ‘They’ll bum from their relatives and friends.’ Some people will even steal when they think they need something they don’t have. ‘To beg, borrow or steal is not God’s way.’

God says, **‘That’s not my plan. My plan is for you to give in order to receive.’** God’s way is for you to GIVE as an act of faith. ‘He says when you have a need, sow a seed as an act of faith in me.’ God is not interested in you having faith in yourself. ‘He wants you to have faith in Him.’ **The principle he wants you to live by is this: The more seed carefully sown the greater the harvest.** ‘If you sow only a few seeds, you will reap a small harvest.’ If you sow abundantly, you will reap an abundant harvest. ‘When you have a need ‘plant a seed!’ I’ve heard a lot of people say, ‘When I get out of debt I’ll start giving to worthy ministries.’ God says, **‘You don’t understand.’ Start giving as an act**

of faith and I will meet all your needs.'How much we give to God is a statement of our faith.'You don't have to have God's help as you go through life.'You can go through life on your own if you want.'God will let you do that.'But God is telling you, if you have a need, plant a seed.'The best time to be generous is when you're under financial pressure.'Then God can step in and bless you for your step of faith.'

That's the principle.'Now here is the procedure for how God meets our needs: **GIVE WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.**'

There is a right and a wrong way to plant seed.'There is a right and a wrong way to give. 'It doesn't work unless you do it with the right attitude.'Second Corinthians 9:7 says, *'You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'*

It's important that you understand that God does not need your money.'God says, *'I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.'*(PSALM 50:10)'Everything good thing in heaven or on earth belongs to God.'Your money, your possessions, they aren't really yours.'They belong first to God.'You get to use them for the short time you're here on earth.'They're on loan to you from God.'You don't really own anything.'When you die you have to leave it all behind.'God doesn't need your money like He's some impoverished Deity.'He doesn't really want your money.'He wants your heart and where your treasure is there will your heart be also.'He wants what your money represents.'

Most of us spend our lives thinking about money, planning about money, saving money, making money, spending money, worrying about money, investing money, using money and a lot of times wasting money.'God doesn't want your money.'He wants what your money represents.'He wants your heart.'God is far more interested in the attitude with which you give than the amount you give.'He's more interested in why you give.'He's more interested in the way you give.'He's more concerned with the attitude you have as you give.'

If you want to be able to claim God's promise to meet all your needs, then here is how you will need to give.'**First**, your giving will need to be done **thoughtfully**.'The Bible says, *'make up your own mind'*.(2nd Cor. 9:7) **Second**, your giving will need to be done **enthusiastically**.'The Bible says, *'not reluctantly'*.(2nd Cor. 9:7)'**Third**, your giving will need to be done **voluntarily**.'The Bible says, *'not in*

response to pressure or under compulsion.'(2nd Cor. 9:7) **Fourth**, your giving will need to be done **cheerfully**.'The Bible says, *'for God loves a cheerful giver.'*(2nd Cor. 9:7)'**Fifth**, your giving will need to be done **weekly**.'The Bible says, *'On every Lord's Day put aside some from what you have earned during the week and use it for the offering.'*(1st Cor. 16:2)

How do you begin to give the way God would have you give, that is: thoughtfully, enthusiastically, voluntarily, cheerfully and weekly?'By nature we are not cheerful givers.'In order to give like this, in order to give as God calls us to give, we have to remember three things.

First, remember it all comes from God.'Whatever you have is a gift from God.'He's the one who's given you the strength and intelligence that enables you to earn money.'If you've inherited money, it was God who placed you in that family.'If you've invested well, it was God who saw to that.'You thought you were so smart or so lucky.'It was God who arranged for you to succeed.'He gave you what you needed to succeed.'Remember, it all comes from God.

Second, remember God's promise.'You can never out give God.'Jesus said, *'Give to others and God will give to you.'**The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you.*'(Luke 6:38)'You can never out give God.

Third, remember your eternal reward.'Did you know that every time you give to others as an act of faith and with the right attitude, you are storing up treasure for yourself in heaven?'The Bible says, *'Use your worldly resources to benefit others.'**In this way your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven.*'(Luke 16:9) 'Anything you choose to hold on to in this life will be lost as soon as you die.'Anything you refuse to let go of will be taken from you and given to someone else at the end of your earthly life.'But anything you place in God's hands will be enjoyed by you forever in eternity.'When you die and go to heaven and call back, 'Wire up my money.'It's not going to happen. **'You've got to do your giving while you're living to be knowing where it's going.'**The good news is, while you can't take it with you, you can pay it on ahead by giving to the kingdom of God with the right attitude.: thoughtfully, enthusiastically, voluntarily, cheerfully and weekly.'That's how we give faithfully, and what is done faithfully will be rewarded eternally.

The **principle** is: if you have a need plant a seed.'The **procedure** is: do it with the right attitude.'Now here's **the promise**.

EXPECT GOD TO MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS.'God promises this over and over in the Bible.'Being a person of faith means living on the promises of God and God has more promises in the Bible related to giving than any other topic.'That's why it's so important to talk about giving whenever you talk about being a person of faith.'

In 2nd Corinthians 9:8 we are told, *'God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'*God doesn't want to give you just a little bit grace for you to squeak by on.'He wants to lavish his grace on you.'Why?'So you may

abound in every good work.' God wants you to be freed up to do good things, knowing that He is taking care of all your needs all the time.' What does this verse not cover in your life?' It covers everything.' Does it include mortgage payments?' Yes!' Does it include your food bills or fuel bills or medical bills?' Yes!' God will make His grace abound in your life when you step out in faith and live by his principles.'

I think the real issue is who or what we are putting our faith in.

The Bible says, ***'[Giving] is proof of your faith! People will praise God because you obey the gospel you say you believe and because you freely share with them and others.'*** (2nd Cor. 9:13) 'When I give it is evidence of my faith.' My giving is a testimony to others of what I really believe.' If I really believe that God will take care of me, then I will give thoughtfully, enthusiastically, voluntarily, cheerfully and regularly.'

We are warned not to put God to the test, but when it comes to the principle of giving, God commands us to put him to the test.' We are told: ***'Bring your whole tithe into the storehouse Test me in this, says the Lord, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it.'*** (Malachi 3:8-11) 'God is issuing a challenge here.' ***'Test Me,'*** He says.' God is challenging you to put Him to the test.' Put Him to the test and you will see Him work in your life.' He will throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won't know what to do with it.'

The promise is there for us to claim.' God will take care of all our needs when we give with the right attitude.' And yet, we are to give not so we can claim the promise, but simply out of gratitude for all that God has done for us.' He has given us life and breath.' He has given us new life, given to us by our Savior, Jesus Christ.'

'Remember the generosity of Jesus Christ.' 2nd Cor. 8:9

'We are saved because Jesus amazingly and out of sheer generosity moved to save us.' Acts 15:11

'We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift.' John 1:16

'Therefore, offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him' When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask?' Romans 12:1