

**Learning To Trust God**  
**How God Meets Your Deepest Needs (Part 8)**  
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Over and over and over in the Bible we are told how God promises to meet our needs. He promises to meet our emotional needs, our financial needs, our physical needs, our spiritual needs, our relationship needs – every need we have, He promises to meet. In fact, one of the names God identifies Himself by in the Old Testament is *Jehovah Jirah*, which means, **“I am the God who provides for you.”** Over and over God tells us He will provide for us and meet our deepest needs, and yet we have a difficult time trusting him to provide for us. We believe **“God helps those who help themselves.”** In fact, 40% of Americans think that verse is actually in the Bible. It’s not. Here’s what is in the Bible, though, in Philippians 4:19. It says, **“My God will supply all that you need from His glorious resources in Christ Jesus.”** (Phil. 4:19)

Why is it so hard for us to trust God to provide for us? Well, for one thing, we look around and we see a lot of people who have needs that aren’t being met by God. We look at our own lives and we see needs that haven’t been met by God. In reality, a lot of time our needs seem to go unmet. What does it mean that God will supply all our needs? Is God lying to us when he says he will supply all that we need? Is God exaggerating the point? Is He just saying something that sounds real nice but isn’t true? Why do our needs so often go unmet?

The Bible tells us that every promise carries with it a conditional clause. **There is a premise to every promise.** In this case, for God to meet our needs, there has to be faith. That is the condition. The more we trust God, the more His power will be unleashed in our lives. The Bible says, **“According to your faith it will be done unto you.”** (Matthew 9:29) So really, it’s up to us how much God can do in our lives and in the lives of those we love. **According to your faith, it will be done....** The more faith we have, the more God will bless us. The obvious question becomes, how do I get more faith? Or, how do I learn to trust God more so He can unleash His power in my life and meet all of my needs.

Faith is an interesting thing. You don’t get it by sitting in a church service or attending a Bible Study or Sunday school class. You don’t get it by talking about it. You don’t get it by reading about it or thinking about it. Faith is far more like a muscle in your body. It develops with use. The more you exercise the little bit of faith you have been given, the stronger it gets. The stronger it gets, the more God is able to provide for you and meet your needs. That’s God’s goal for us, not that we be over indulged spoiled brat children, but that we be people of faith, strong in our ability to trust Him to provide for all our needs.

So how does God get us to learn to trust Him? The circumstances that God uses to strengthen our faith are called **TRIALS** or **TESTS** in the Bible. In 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:7 we read, **“These trials are only to test faith to show that it is strong and pure.”** (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:7) The Bible tells us tests are like the refiner’s fire – it purifies us when we’re under the heat of fiery trials.

Today I want us to look at **four of the most common trials** we can face. Chances are you are undergoing one or more of these trials right now in your life. If you aren’t I guarantee you will be soon. In the course of your life, you will go through these four trials over and over again. As you do, keep this in mind: **A trial is an opportunity for you to grow in faith, and that will enable God to bless you and meet your needs in ways you never imagined.**

The **FIRST** of the four most common tests is **THE PRESSURE TEST**. The question here is this: **How will I HANDLE STRESS?** Will I rely on myself, or will I rely on God to help me? Will I depend on myself or will I depend on God? God is very clear about what He wants.

He says, ***“I want you to trust Me in your times of trouble so I can rescue you and you can give Me glory.”*** (Ps. 50:15) God wants us to turn to Him for help when we are in need and not to other things. But do we do that? No, we don’t, do we. God may be somewhere on the list of who or what we turn to but usually about number nine or ten on the list. We turn to everything else first to relieve our stress before we turn to God.

We all have our little stress relievers. Some people take pills. Some people have a rigid exercise program. Some people stress eat. Some people zone out in front of the TV. Some people drink excessively. Some people busy themselves in a frenzy of activities, running from one thing to another, never slowing down long enough to feel anything. Some people take their stress out on others, snapping at them and bossing them around. Some people collapse in tears when they get stressed out or go into depression. God says, ***“I want you to turn to Me to relieve the stress in your life.”*** When you are under pressure, it’s an opportunity for you to learn to trust God. He wants you to turn to Him to meet your needs. Often when we do turn to God, we want Him to act immediately. If God doesn’t instantly meet our needs and relieve our stress, we turn to something or someone else and make up our own plan for getting our needs met. We short-circuit God’s will and God’s blessing in our lives by being too much in a hurry. We do it all the time. We don’t wait for God to act in our lives.

The Lord is not pleased when we turn away from Him and seek other ways to meet our needs. Through the prophet Jeremiah God says, ***“My people have done two evils: They have turned away from me, the spring of living water, and they have dug their own wells, which are broken wells that cannot hold water.”*** (Jeremiah 2:13)

Some of us have been living under tremendous pressure for so long that it’s become a way of life. There are work pressures, financial pressures, relationship pressures, emotional pressures, social pressures, legal pressures, health related pressures - the list goes on and on. But we’re not turning to God. We reach for some quick fix and dig for ourselves a well that won’t hold water. There is only one way to pass the **PRESSURE TEST**. The prophet Isaiah tells us the ways when he says, ***“If you’re walking in darkness without a ray of light, trust in the Lord, and rely on your God.”*** Isaiah 50:15b

**The SECOND most common test is THE PEOPLE TEST.** God often uses the people in your life to stretch you and develop your faith. The question here is ***“How will I handle disappointment?”*** Life is full of disappointment. Things don’t always go the way we want them to go. Things don’t always turn out the way we want them to turn out. Careers don’t always go the way we hope they would. Marriages aren’t always go the way we hope they would. Children don’t always turn out the way we hope they would. Life is full of disappointment.

In fact, the most disappointing thing in life is the people. We get disappointed because we expect other people to meet the needs only God can meet. When you turn to your husband or wife, boyfriend or girlfriend, father or mother, or friend and you expect them to meet all your needs, you are setting yourself up for major disappointment. You’re putting unrealistic expectations on the people in your life, expectations they can’t possibly meet.

If you’re disappointed with others, it’s not their fault. The problem is with you and your response to them. You can write people off and avoid them, but unless you learn to turn to God to meet your needs, you’ll just end up even more disappointed with a new set of people over and over again. The answer to your problem of disappointment is not to change the people in your life but to turn to God to meet your needs. The Bible says, ***“You should stop trusting in people to save you because people are only human.”*** (Isaiah 2:22) Don’t expect other people to satisfy you. It’s not going to happen. There is only one savior, Jesus Christ. Jeremiah the prophet said,

***“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made Him their hope, and confidence.”***  
(Jeremiah 17:7)

Disappointment will always follow when we put our faith in anything other than God. But God promises, ***“Anyone who trusts in Me will not be disappointed.”*** (Isaiah 49:23)

The **THIRD** test God uses to build our faith is **THE PERSISTENCE TEST**. The question here is: **Will I keep my commitments?** You know, life is all about commitments. Our lives are shaped by our commitments. Our character is shaped by our commitments. Our eternal destiny is shaped by our commitments. That’s why it’s so important to choose wisely what you’re going to be committed to and once you’ve made your decision, to be persistent in keeping your commitments. The problem is we’re people who are half committed to far too many things instead of being totally committed to a few things. We spread ourselves too thin and waste our lives away on things done half heartedly.

Persistence will always be the test of maturity - emotional, social, relational, and spiritual maturity. Making wise commitments and keeping them will always be the sign of maturity. On the other hand, the selfish and immature person will reveal their immaturity in their inability to make wise commitments and keep them.

This won’t be easy. A lot of people haven’t learned that a commitment that really matters is never easy. They are all hard if they are important. For some people, their marriage vows are being tested. Is it really going to be “Till death do us part”? Some people are in the midst of a personal integrity test. They know the right thing to do, but they haven’t decided if they’re going to do it? It’s a test of their character. Ecclesiastes 5:4 says, ***“If you make a promise to God don’t be slow to keep it. God is not happy with fools, so give God what you promise.”*** (Ecclesiastes 5:4) Have you made some promises to God? Solomon in all his wisdom says, ***“The wise man will find a time and a way to do what he says.”*** (Ecclesiastes 8:5)

The **FOURTH** test to develop our faith is **THE PRIORITY TEST**. This is the most important test of all. Life is full of **PRIORITY TESTS**. The question to ask yourself here is **WHO WILL BE FIRST IN MY LIFE?** Or what will be first in my life? One of the great promises of the Bible deals with this test. In Matthew 6:33 we read, ***“Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs and He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for Him and make the kingdom of God your first priority.”*** (Matt. 6:33)

We all have legitimate needs. We all have financial needs. We all have emotional needs, relational needs, physical needs, spiritual needs. Our needs are real and God promises to meet all our needs if we make Him our first priority; if we make honoring Him and pleasing Him our first priority. We can say God is first in our lives but it will mean nothing if He really isn’t. Here are three questions to ask in assessing whether God is really first in your life.

**QUESTION NUMBER ONE:** What do you think about the most? When you have free time what does your mind naturally wander to? Whatever you think about the most is what’s most important in your life. **QUESTION NUMBER TWO:** Where does your money go first? The Bible says, ***“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*** (Matt. 6:21) What’s most important to you determines your priorities. What’s most important to you is revealed in the way you spend your money. **QUESTION NUMBER THREE:** How do you spend your time? How you spend your time will reveal the priorities in your life.

If someone would take a look at your checkbook or your calendar, they would be able to tell you very clearly what your priorities are. Checkbooks and calendars don’t lie. They’re like looking into a mirror. We may not like what we see but that’s who we are. The way you spend your money and your time, including what you think about, reveals the top priorities in your life.

Which of the four most common tests are you struggling with right now? Maybe it's the **PRESSURE TEST**. Maybe you're under a lot of stress and God is watching to see if you turn to Him for help or if you turn to something or someone else. Maybe it's the **PEOPLE TEST**. Maybe you've got people in your life who are really stretching you and challenging you and disappointing you. God is waiting to see if you turn to Him to meet your needs rather than other people. Maybe it's the **PERSISTENCE TEST**. Maybe you've made a commitment in the past that you're being tempted to give up on. God wants you to turn to him for help. Maybe it's the **PRIORITIES TEST**. Maybe you haven't really settled what's going to be first in your life? Making money? Taking care of your family? Having fun? Those are good things but they aren't worthy to be your first priority. When you put God first, all the blessings of God pour into your life. The prophet Isaiah says, *"This is what God says, 'If you come back to Me and trust in Me you will be saved and you will be strong.'" (Isaiah 30:15)*

Remember, God's blessings are not only for this life, but also for the life to come. The apostle James assures us, "God blesses those who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12)