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Forward

When we talk about God supplying our needs, we are talking about more than just finances.

We have many needs. Being accepted by God holds priority when we consider our needs.

We will also consider our health, our Christian influence, safety with favor and acceptance.

We must be protected from the evil snares of the devil, which can only come through knowledge of the word of God

In this study we look at the laws of the Old Testament to see how each of these were given and maintained.

By following the teachings of Jesus and the apostles we learn how to apply them to our lives today.

The last three chapters of this study gives specific promises concerning promises to meet our needs including our financial needs.

Remember! The Word of God works.

Chapter 1



God's laws are designed to meet our needs.

Exodus 20:1-6

And God spoke all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Why were the Ten Commandments necessary for God's new nation? At the foot of Mount Sinai, God showed his people the true function and beauty of his laws.

The commandments were designed to lead Israel to a life of practical holiness. In them, people could see the nature of God and his plan for how they should live.

The commands and guidelines were intended to direct the community to meet the needs of each individual in a loving and responsible manner.

By Jesus' time, however, most people looked at the law the wrong way. They saw it as a means to prosperity in both this world and the next. And they thought that to obey every law was the way to earn God's protection from foreign invasion and natural disaster.

Law keeping became an end in itself, not the means to fulfill God's ultimate law of love.

The Israelites had just come from Egypt, a land of many idols and many gods. Because each god represented a different aspect of life, it was common to worship many gods in order to get the maximum number of blessings.

When God told his people to worship and believe in him, that weren't so hard for them—he was just one more god to add to the list.

But when he said, "You shall have no other gods before me," that was difficult for the people to accept.

But if they didn't learn that the God who led them out of Egypt was the only true God, they could not be his people—no matter how faithfully they kept the other nine commandments.

Thus, God made this his first commandment and emphasized it more than the others.

Today we can allow many things to become gods to us

Money, fame, work, or pleasure can become gods when we concentrate too much on them for personal identity, meaning, and security.

No one sets out with the intention of worshiping these things. But by the amount of time we devote to them, they can grow into gods that ultimately control our thoughts and energies.

Letting God hold the central place in our lives keeps these things from turning into gods.

The key to understanding envy

Exodus 20:17

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbors' wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is thy neighbors'.

To covet is to wish to have the possessions of others. It goes beyond simply admiring someone else's possessions or thinking, "I'd like to have one of those." Coveting includes envy—resenting the fact that others have what you don't.

God knows, however, that possessions never make anyone happy for long. Since only God can supply all our needs, true contentment is found only in him.

When you begin to covet, try to determine if a more basic need is leading you to envy. For example, you may covet someone's success, not because you want to take it away from him, but because you would like to feel as appreciated by others as he is.

If this is the case, pray that God will help you deal with your resentment and meet your basic needs.

Chapter 2



Idols tempt us into false needs.

Leviticus 26:1

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall you set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God.

This chapter presents the two paths of obedience and disobedience that God set before the people (see also Deut. 28). The people of the Old Testament were warned over and over against worshiping idols.

We wonder how they could deceive themselves with these objects of wood and stone. Yet God could well give us the same warning, for we are prone to put idols before him. Idolatry is making anything more important than God, and our lives are full of that temptation. Money, looks, success, reputation, security—these are today's idols. As you look at these false gods that promise everything you want but nothing you need, does idolatry seem so far removed from your experience?

Let others know they're needed.

Numbers 10:29-32

And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.

And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred.

And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knows how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou may be to us instead of eyes.

And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the Lord shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee.

By complimenting Hobab's desert skills, Moses let him know he was needed.

People cannot know you appreciate them if you do not tell them they are important to you.

Complimenting those who deserve it builds lasting relationships and helps people know they are valued.

Think about those who have helped you. What can you do to let them know how much you need and appreciate them?

Our responsibility to support needs of God's ministers.

Numbers 35:2-3

Command the children of Israel that they give unto the Levites of the inheritance of their possession cities to dwell in; and ye shall give also unto the Levites suburbs for the cities round about them.

And the cities shall they have to dwell in; and the suburbs of them shall be for their cattle, and for their goods, and for all their beasts.

The Levites were ministers. They were supported by the tithes of the people who gave them homes, flocks, and pasturelands.

Likewise, we are responsible to provide for the needs of our ministers and missionaries so they can be free to do their God-ordained work.

Take the initiative to supply your needs.

Ruth 2:2-3

And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

When the wheat and barley were ready to be harvested, reapers were hired to cut down the stalks and tie them into bundles.

Israelite law demanded that the corners of the fields not be harvested. In addition, any grain that was dropped was to be left for poor people who picked it up (this was called *gleaning*) and used it for food (Leviticus 19:9; Leviticus 23:22; Deut. 24:19).

The purpose of this law was to feed the poor and to prevent the owners from hoarding. This law served as a type of welfare program in Israel.

Because she was a widow with no means of providing for herself, Ruth went into the fields to glean the grain.

Ruth made her home in a foreign land. Instead of depending on Naomi or waiting for good fortune to happen, she took the initiative. She went to work. She was not afraid of admitting her need or working hard to supply it.

When Ruth went out to the fields, God provided for her. If you are waiting for God to provide, consider this:

He may be waiting for you to take the first step to demonstrate just how important your need is.

Should you break the law to meet someone's need?

1 Samuel 21:1

Then came David to Nob to Abimelech the priest: and Abimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, why art thou alone, and no man with thee?

This is the first time Abimelech is mentioned. Either he was the Ahijah mentioned in 1 Samuel 14:3, 18, or, more likely, he was Ahijah's successor.

In either case, Ahimelech had to go against the law to give the consecrated bread to David because the bread was supposed to be given only to the priests (Leviticus 24:5-9).

But Ahimelech put David's need and life ahead of religious ceremony and fed him the consecrated food.

This upheld a higher law of love (Leviticus 19:18).

Centuries later, Jesus would refer to this incident to show that God's laws should not be applied without compassion.

To do good and to save life is God's greater law (Matthew 12:1-8; Luke 6:1-5).

Chapter 3



Our concern for human needs

2 Kings 6:1-7

And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye.

And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered I will go. So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! it was borrowed.

And the man of God said, where fell it? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to them, and he put out his hand, and took it.

The incident of the floating ax head is recorded to show God's care and provision for those who trust him, even in the insignificant events of everyday life. God is always present. Placed in the Bible between the healing of an Aramean general and the deliverance of Israel's army, this miracle also shows Elisha's personal contact

with the students in the companies of the prophets. Although he had the respect of kings, Elisha never forgot to care for the faithful. Don't let the importance of your work drive out your concern for human need.

Our need for God

Psalm 104:29

Thou hid thy face, they are troubled: you take away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Today many people are arrogant enough to think they don't need God. But our every breath depends on the Spirit he has breathed into us (Genesis 2:7; Genesis 3:19; Job 33:4; Job 34:14-15; Daniel 5:23).

Not only do we depend on God for our very lives, but he wants the best for us. We should also desire to learn more of his plans for us each day.

Placing rules above human need.

Matthew 12:10-12

And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath days? So that they might accuse him.

And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days.

Luke 13:15-16

The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?

The Pharisees hid behind their own set of laws to avoid love's obligations.

We too can use the letter of the law to rationalize away our obligation to care for others (for example, by tithing regularly and then refusing to help a needy neighbor).

But people's needs are more important than rules and regulations. Take time to help others, even if doing so might compromise your public image.

In our fallen world, disease and disability are common. Their causes are many and often multiple—inadequate nutrition, contact with a source of infection, lowered defenses, and even direct attack by Satan.

Whatever the immediate cause of our illness, we can trace its original source to Satan, the author of all the evil in our world. The good news is that Jesus is more powerful than any devil or any

disease. He often brings physical healing in this life; and when he returns, he will put an end to all disease and disability.

Spiritual matters blind us to needs

Matthew 15:23

But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

The disciples asked Jesus to get rid of the woman because she was bothering them with her nagging persistence. They showed no compassion for her or sensitivity to her needs. It is possible to become so occupied with spiritual matters that we miss real needs right around us. This is especially likely if we are prejudiced against needy people or if they cause us inconvenience. Instead of being bothered, be aware of the opportunities that surround you. Be open to the beauty of God's message for *all* people, and make an effort not to shut out those who are different from you.

Service keeps us aware of others' needs.

Matthew 23:11-12

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Jesus challenged society's norms. To him, greatness comes from serving—giving of yourself to help God and others. Service keeps us aware of others' needs, and it stops us from focusing only on ourselves. Jesus came as a servant. What kind of greatness do you seek?

Chapter 4



Trust Christ for your needs.

Matthew 23:37

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that kill the prophets, and stone them which are sent unto thee, how often I would have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Jesus wanted to gather his people together as a hen protects her chicks under her wings, but they wouldn't let him. Jesus also wants to protect us if we will just come to him.

Many times we hurt and don't know where to turn. We reject Christ's help because we don't think he can give us what we need. But who knows our needs better than our Creator?

Those who turn to Jesus will find that he helps and comforts as no one else can.

Jerusalem was the capital city of God's chosen people, the ancestral home of David, Israel's greatest king, and the location of the temple, the earthly dwelling place of God.

It was intended to be the center of worship of the true God and a symbol of justice to all people. But Jerusalem had become blind to God and insensitive to human need. Here we see the depth of Jesus' feelings for lost people and for his beloved city, which would soon be destroyed.

Get personally involved in meeting needs of others.

Matthew 25:34-40

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

I was naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? We saw you thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

This parable describes acts of mercy we all can do every day. These acts do not depend on wealth, ability, or intelligence; they are simple acts freely given and freely received.

We have no excuse to neglect those who have deep needs, and we cannot hand over this responsibility to the church or government. Jesus demands our personal involvement in caring for others' needs (Isaiah 58:7).

There has been much discussion about the identity of the "brothers." Some have said they are the Jews; others say they are all Christians; still others say they are suffering people everywhere.

Such a debate is much like the lawyer's earlier question to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29).

The point of this parable is not *who*, but the *what*—the importance of serving where service is needed.

The focus of this parable is that we should love every person and serves anyone we can. Such love for others glorifies God by reflecting our love for him.

Mark 7:10-11

For Moses said, Honor thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curses father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou might be profited by me; he shall be free.

The Pharisees used God as an excuse to avoid helping their families. They thought it was more important to put money in the temple treasury than to help their needy parents, although God's

law specifically says to honor fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12) and to care for those in need (Leviticus 25:35-43).

We should give money and time to God, but we must never use God as an excuse to neglect our responsibilities. Helping those in need is one of the most important ways to honor God.

Luke 9:16-17

Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

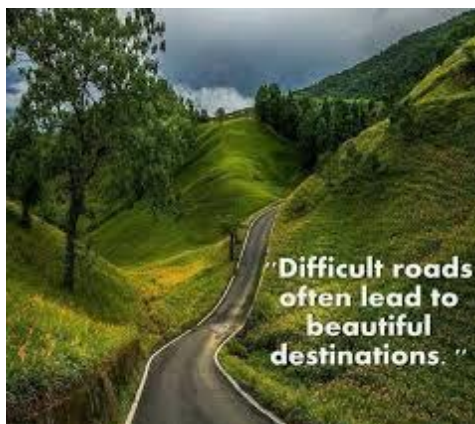
Why did Jesus bother to feed these people? He could just as easily have sent them on their way. But Jesus does not ignore needs.

He is concerned with every aspect of our lives—the physical as well as the spiritual.

As we work to bring wholeness to people's lives, we must never ignore the fact that all of us have both physical and spiritual needs.

It is impossible to minister effectively to one type of need without considering the other.

Chapter 5



Jesus is concerned about your needs.

Mark 8:1-3

In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said unto them, I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far.

This is a different miracle from the feeding of the 5,000 described in Mark 6. At that time, those fed were mostly Jews. This time Jesus was ministering to a non-Jewish crowd in the Gentile region of the Decapolis. Jesus' actions and message were beginning to have an impact on large numbers of Gentiles. That Jesus would compassionately minister to non-Jews was very reassuring to Mark's primarily Roman audience.

Do you ever feel that God is so busy with important concerns that he can't possibly be aware of your needs?

Just as Jesus was concerned about these people's need for food, he is concerned about our daily needs. At another time Jesus said, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' . . . your heavenly Father knows that you need them" (Matthew 6:31-32).

Do you have concerns that you think would not interest God? There is nothing too large for him to handle and no need too small to escape his interest.

John 5:6

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he said unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

After 38 years, this man's problem had become a way of life. No one had ever helped him. He had no hope of ever being healed and no desire to help himself.

The man's situation looked hopeless. But no matter how trapped you feel in your infirmities, God can minister to your deepest needs.

Don't let a problem or hardship cause you to lose hope. God may have special work for you to do in spite of your condition, or even because of it.

Many have ministered effectively to hurting people because they have triumphed over their own hurts.

Meeting others' needs demonstrates love.

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, and do well. Lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Love means action. One-way to put love to work is to take the initiative in meeting specific needs. This is easy to do with people who love us, people whom we trust; but love means doing this even to those who dislike us or plan to hurt us. The money we give others should be considered a gift, not a high-interest loan that will help us more than them. Give as though you are giving to God.

Valuing personal gain more than people's needs.

Luke 8:33-37

Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and was choked.

When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

God may not meet them all in this life.

Phil. 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Chapter 6



Your Need Will Be Supplied

3Joh 1:2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou may prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prosper.

Psalms 37:25

I have been young, and [now] am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psalms 34:10

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good [thing].

Psalms 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Deut 28:2-8

All these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Blessed shall thou be in the city, and blessed shall thou be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Blessed shalt thou be when you come in, and blessed shall thou be when you go out.

The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou sets thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Chapter 7



God will make you plenteous in goods.

Deut 28:11-13

The LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

Luke 6:38

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your

bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

1Cor 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Malachi 3:10-13

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, said the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, says the LORD of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, says the LORD of hosts.

Chapter 8

You will reap what you sow

2 Cor. 9:6-8

But this I say, He that sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that sowed bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

People may hesitate to give generously to God if they worry about having enough money left over to meet their own needs. Paul assured the Corinthians that God was able to meet their needs.

The person who gives only a little will receive only a little in return. Don't let a lack of faith keep you from giving freely and generously.

Our attitude when we give is more important than the amount we give. We don't have to be embarrassed if we can give only a small gift.

God is concerned about *how* we give from the resources we have (see Mark 12:41-44). According to that standard, the giving of the Macedonian churches would be difficult to match (2 Cor. 8:3).

Matt 19:29

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Jesus assured the disciples that anyone who gives up something valuable for his sake would be repaid many times over in this life, although not necessarily in the same form. For example, his or her family may reject a person for accepting Christ, but he or she will gain the larger family of believers.

Josh 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Eccl 2:26

For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Is Solomon recommending we make life a big, irresponsible party? No, he is encouraging us to take pleasure in what we're doing now and to enjoy life because it comes from God's hand. True enjoyment in life comes only as we follow God's guidelines for living. Without him, satisfaction is a lost search. Those who really

know how to enjoy life are the ones who take life each day as a gift from God, thanking him for it and serving him in it. Those without God will have no relief from toil and no direction to guide them through life's complications.

Prov 13:22 -23

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. Proverbs 13:23
Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

The poor are often victims of an unjust society. A poor man's soil may be good, but unjust laws may rob him of his own produce. This proverb does not take poverty lightly or wink at injustice; it simply describes what often occurs.

We should do what we can to fight injustice of every sort. Our efforts may seem inadequate; but it is comforting to know that in the end God's justice will prevail.

Chapter 9



You shall dwell in a good land

Deut 8:7–14

For the LORD thy God brings you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;

A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;

A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any [thing] in it; a Land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou may dig brass.

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land that he hath given thee.

Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt [therein];

And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Deut 8:18

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for [it is] he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as [it is] this day.

In times of plenty, we often take credit for our prosperity and become proud that our own hard work and cleverness have made us rich. It is easy to get so busy collecting and managing wealth that we push God right out of our lives. But it is God who gives us everything we have, and it is God who asks us to manage it for him.

Matt 6:31

Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? What shall we drink or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek for your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of all these.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

To “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” means to turn to God first for help, to fill your thoughts with his desires, to take his

character for your pattern, and to serve and obey him in everything.

What is really important to you? People, objects, goals, and other desires all compete for priority.

Any of these can quickly bump God out of first place if you don't actively choose to give him first place in *every* area of your life.

Phil 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We can trust that God will always meet our needs. Whatever we need on earth he will always supply, even if it is the courage to face death as Paul did. Whatever we need in heaven he will supply. We must remember, however, the difference between our wants and our needs. Most people want to feel good and avoid discomfort or pain. We may not get all that we want. By trusting in Christ, our attitudes and appetites can change from wanting everything to accepting his provision and power to live for him.

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