



Supplying All Of Your Needs

Introduction

Philippians 4:14-21

My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

God takes care of every need we have. As the nation of Israel traveled in the wilderness, He provided for them so that their shoes did not wear out and they did not go hungry. When their food supply ran low, He gave them manna, which was a bread-like substance that was rich in nutrients and a great source of energy. It was just what they needed. However, eating manna each day soon became a little boring. In fact, it became very boring, and the people began to complain to Moses. But God is not obligated to meet our desires—only our needs.

The apostle Paul's life was totally dedicated to Christ. Yet he sometimes faced serious trials and surely thought his life was over. However, God protected and cared for him. From a cold, dark, lonely prison cell, he wrote to the New Testament churches, promising the congregations that God would provide for their needs. The only condition to this promise was that they would give themselves completely to the Lord. This meant that they could not hold anything back—not their finances and certainly not their personal devotion. Many times, we expect God to answer our prayers and meet our needs, but we want to give very little in return to Him and to the church.

Are you willing to offer yourself totally to Christ for His kingdom, service, and glory, or are you continuing to hold back by refusing to give what is rightfully His? Open up your heart and your life to Him, and you will have all you need to a point of eternal overflowing.¹

Open it

1. What is your favorite and least favorite aroma or smell? Any reason why you chose those?

¹ Devotional by Tony Evans found @ <https://tonyevans.org/supplying-all-of-your-needs/> Copyright © 2020 Tony Evans. All Rights Reserved.

Read it

Philippians 4:14-21

Explore it

2. What kind gesture does Paul commend the Philippians for?
3. Who was willing to partner with Paul in the beginning?
4. Who should get all the glory for what was happening with Paul?
5. What notable family does Paul pass on greetings from?

Apply it

“You Are The Best Thing”

With this sermon we come to the end of our series from the book of Philippians. I have mentioned several times that this book is essentially a thank you note from the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi. He is writing to thank them for the gift they sent when they heard he was a prisoner in Rome. The final paragraph of his letter contains a direct statement about the gift he had received from them.

6. We learn in this last passage of the book that it was a “thank you” letter. Who is someone that you could thank for what they have done recently? Why are you thankful for them?

7. We are amidst unprecedented times where needs abound all around us. How can you be like the Philippians and give to someone in need? Look for those around you who are in need. What would a gift mean for them?

“Trouble”

“Trouble” (Greek: Thlipsis) pictures one being “crushed” by intense pressure, difficult circumstances, suffering or trouble pressing upon them from without. Thus persecution, affliction, distress, opposition or tribulation, all press hard on one’s soul. Thlipsis does not refer to mild discomfort but to great difficulty. In Scripture the thlipsis is most often used of outward difficulties, but it is also used of emotional stress and sorrows which “weighs down” a man’s spirit like the sorrows and burden his heart. Thlipsis then includes the disappointments which can “crush the life” out of the one who is afflicted.²

8. Paul pulls no punches when he describes his current situation. It was a time of great trouble and tribulation. We now find ourselves in a difficult chapter of life. Why is it important to be open about the trouble we are facing? What things keep us from this type of transparency?
9. Paul is one of the most remarkable Christians of all time and yet when he faced trouble he did not rely on the supernatural or some other unique gift. Instead, he relied on other Christians. Within a culture that elevates self-sufficiency and independence, how can you strengthen and deepen the Christian relationships around you?

² Study notes found @ https://www.preceptaustin.org/philippians_414-18

“Forever my Friend”

Paul’s relationship with the Philippians was special. No wonder he loved this church so much! He says that from the very early days of the church, they supported the mission of advancing the gospel and planting churches. When he left Philippi for Thessalonica (Acts 16–17; cf. 2 Cor 11:9), this young church was already helping him. He says that no other church entered such partnership (Phil 4:15).³

- 10. The Philippians were the quintessential example of a faithful friend. Why is it so important to know that your friends are with you in both thick and thin? What must you be willing to do for others to be this type of friend?**

“The apostle does not mean simply that it was a joint contribution on their part, but that they joined with him, making his affliction their own.”⁴

- 11. Paul had a special place in his heart for the Philippians because they were with him from the beginning. What are some unique ways you can be a blessing to another believer? Who around you could use this type of partnership with you?**

“Such A Simple Thing”

Apparently, some were enjoying the benefits of Paul’s teaching and pastoral care but not assuming the responsibility of giving. How common this is in local congregations—receiving benefits but giving nothing in return. When a person is receiving sound instruction, which leads to life and godliness, and when a person is receiving pastoral care, they have the privilege and the responsibility of giving to support the mission of the church. As individuals, don’t be customers; be co-laborers. Join as partners through financial giving. See the relationship between being a partner and giving financially. Don’t be a ninja. Don’t simply appear on a Sunday, and then vanish mysteriously. Become a partner. Surely, partnership involves more than money, but money is important; we can’t carry out the mission with pure sympathy.⁵

- 12. It is easy to be a spiritual spectator because it costs you nothing and yet you gain a lot of benefits. Though there can be great ease in such an approach, what blessings do spiritual spectators miss out on? In what ways are you personally partnering with the church?**

³ Merida, Tony. *Exalting Jesus in Philippians (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)* (p. 193). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Vine, W. *Collected writings of W. E. Vine*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson

⁵ Merida, Tony. *Exalting Jesus in Philippians (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)* (p. 193). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

13. We are living in a time where church life and ministry is far from normal. What can you be doing differently to help the church and your fellow believers to discover, develop and deploy disciples?

“Beg, Steal or Borrow”

Paul suddenly seems to realize that maybe his comments could be misinterpreted, so he quickly explains that he’s not just interested in getting money from them, but for the blessings they receive from being generous. He believes that their giving will not be forgotten by God and that they will receive a reward in heaven. He doesn’t want them to miss out on that. They aren’t just giving for an earthly project; they are investing toward an eternal one. Paul doesn’t want his letter to come across as a plea for money. He says he’s quite taken care of because of their generosity. He also doesn’t want to appear ungrateful for their wonderful care. Paul’s phrase “a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God” refers back to the Old Testament sacrifices. When animal sacrifice was burned, the smell was something that pleased God because the sacrifice represented His people’s dedication and obedience.⁶

14. It is easy to see your tithes and offerings being used to simply pay utilities and payroll. But Paul wants us to know there is so much more. What can a church do to make sure that giving is more than simply paying the bills? Look around at what is happening at our church. In what ways is God using the gifts that are being given for eternity?

15. Paul says that our giving to God’s kingdom work pleases God and is a way to worship and glorify God. If this is true, why do so many Christians struggle to make giving a priority? What advice or encouragement would you share with other believers who are missing this great blessing?

⁶ Miller, Kathy Collard. *Paul and the Prison Epistles (The Smart Guide to the Bible Series)* (Kindle Locations 4319–4326). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

God promises to meet all our true needs. We might think that we can ask for anything we want, but His promise refers to “true” needs—not our wants. If we get our wants and our needs mixed up, we’re going to think God should give us a new car every year or the fanciest wardrobe—but that isn’t what this promise is about. Literally, our needs are actually only those things needed to stay alive. Anything else is a “want.” But because God is generous, He often gives us our desires, our wants, too.⁷

16. Why is it significant for the Philippians to realize that God will supply their needs? What might Paul want to emphasize about God’s generosity when he says, “according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus?”

“Lesson Learned”

Paul closes with a word of blessing: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.” He opened with a grace blessing (1:2), and now he closes with one. This remarkable letter is saturated with grace from God’s promise of completing what He started (1:6); to the promise we have of being with Christ (1:23); to the stunning self-emptying of Christ (2:7); to the imputed righteousness of Christ on believing sinners (3:9); to the fact that we have a heavenly citizenship (3:20); to the Father, who hears our prayers and gives us peace (4:6-7)—a Father who supplies all our needs (4:19). We need to know this grace more. We need relationships oiled in grace, and we, indeed, should praise God for His grace and favor that brings us great joy. Let us advance the gospel of grace faithfully and courageously.⁸

17. How has God graced you personally during this study of Philippians? What is one new truth you have learned from this book?

18. Our title for this study was Relentless Joy. How has your understanding of joy grown through the example of Paul and the Philippian church? How can we share this joy with those around us?

⁷ Miller, Kathy Collard. Paul and the Prison Epistles (The Smart Guide to the Bible Series) (Kindle Locations 4353-4357). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Merida, Tony. Exalting Jesus in Philippians (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 198). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

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