

“Our Father in Heaven Gives Good Things to Those Who Ask”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. “God owes us nothing, but gives us everything. One of the main reasons that we lose our enthusiasm in life is because we become ungrateful. We let what was once wondrous become common to us. We get so accustomed to God’s generosity it becomes a routine.” (Author Unknown)

I. GOD GIVES BY HIS PROVIDENCE

- A. God universally provides for everyone - Matt. 5:45; Psalm 145:9; Acts 14:17
- B. God’s general providence testifies that God is and that He loves humankind. We need to trust it.
 - 1. “Providence is wiser than you, and you may be confident it has suited all things better to your eternal good than you could do had you been left to your own option.” (John Flavel)

II. GOD SUPPLIES THROUGH OUR LABOR

- A. In the Roman empire of the late first century, it was considered scandalous for a free citizen to physically labor for food. This began the public dole in Rome. By the reign of Theodosius in the early fourth century, historians cite free government bread as one of the three causes of the fall of the Roman Empire
- B. “Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and He gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures.” (Elisabeth Elliot)
- C. God’s plan for man’s subsistence, for the care of his family, and the general health of his community and country is that everyone works for his bread
 - 1. For ourselves - 2Thes. 3:10-12
 - 2. For our families - 1Tim. 5:8
 - 3. For our community and country - Eph. 4:28

III. GOD PROVIDES THROUGH HIS CHILDREN

- A. Luke 6:38, 8:2-3; Matt. 27:55; Mark 10:29-30; Acts 11:29-30, 2:44-45
James 1:27
- B. “God gives us two hands: one with which to receive His blessings, and the other with which to share them with others. God doesn't bless us just to make us happy; He blesses us to make us a blessing.” (Warren W. Wiersbe)

IV. GOD DELIVERS HELP IN ANSWER TO PRAYERS

- A. Ask God - Matt. 6:11; James 4:2; Luke 18:1-8
- B. Ask the children of God - Matt. 5:42, 25:35-40; 1Tim. 6:18-19; Gal. 6:10

Conclusion:

A. Psalm 37:25 - When God says that we are not to fret about our living here on earth and that instead, we should seek first the kingdom, we can be assured that He will see to it that we are fed and clothed.

1. His provisions are greater and surer than anything we can supply for ourselves; His provisions are not for things so short and inglorious as life under the sun; His provisions carry us into eternity

Corrie ten Boom and her family were Christians active in social work in the Netherlands. During the Nazi occupation, they were active in the Dutch underground, hiding and transporting Jews hunted by the Gestapo. It is estimated they were able to save the lives of 800 people from the concentration camps. Eventually, they were betrayed and arrested. She and her family was interred in concentration camps. Corrie's father, her sister, and the rest of the family died of starvation, disease, and abuse. Corrie survived and was released in 1944. She wrote the following:

“My Life is but a Weaving” (the Tapestry Poem)

“My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me.
I cannot choose the colors
He weaveth steadily.

Of times He weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.”

B. Lessons:

1. Trust God; He has more than proven His care for His children
2. Keep your life in this world second to your life in the world to come
3. Do not allow working for a living to cost your eternal life