

How God Cares for His Children

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- Psalm 121:2-3 - “My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.”
- Psalm 8:4 - “What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?”
- Psalm 23:1 - “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”
- Psalm 65:9 - “You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it.”
- Psalm 115:12 - “The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron.”

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- Matt. 10:30-31 - “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”
- Luke 12:30 - “For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.”
- Isa. 49:15 - “Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.”
- Psalm 103:13-14 - “As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”

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- Matt. 6:25-34 - “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

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- Gen. 28:15 - “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”
- 1Peter 5:7 - “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
- John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- Phil. 4:6-7 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

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- Ex. 14:13 - “And Moses said to the people, Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.”
- Matt. 26:53-54 - “Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”

How God Cares for His Children

- And yet in spite of all of these assurances, faithful children of God are in need, in pain, and under trials.
- How do we reconcile the promises of God to care for His children in contrast with our present, apparent condition?
- Jesus gives a simple yet deeply profound answer
 - Mark 11:22-24 - “So Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

The Needs

- Unquestioned service

- John 16:30-33 - “Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God. 31 Jesus answered them, Do you now believe? 32 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

The Needs

- Job 14:1 - “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”
- 1Peter 1:12-13 - “To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into. 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

The Needs

- Uncontrollable situations
 - 1Kings 17
 - Matt. 5:45 - “He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”
- Untimely sorrow

The Supply Of God

- We may have been surprised by the setback, but God is not surprised
- God knew it was coming before the world began, and He made preparations for it

The Supply Of God

- Rom. 8:22-23, 26-32 - “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body... 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

The Supply Of God

- God's past preparations
- Thousands of years before Elijah needed a drink of water in the drought, the finger of God traced out the path of this little brook.
- God knows all about my troubles before they come, and since God has a hand in creating the world in which I experience my troubles, then I can trust that He has prepared a way for me to get through
 - Isa 45:7 - “I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.”

The Supply Of God

- He never intended that this world would be the place where we experience our highest joy
 - 2Cor. 4:17 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”
 - Rom. 8:18 - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

The Supply Of God

- He also planned this from before the beginning
 - 1Cor. 2:9 - “But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”
 - Eph. 1:3-7 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

The Supply Of God

- Our role is to be patient in this world and wait to receive the promises in the world to come
 - Psalm 84:11 - “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.”
- Nowhere is God's provision more clearly seen than in our salvation.

The Supply Of God

- God's present supply
- Lord has promised to meet our current needs
 - Phil. 4:19 - “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

The Supply Of God

- Our role is to trust His judgment and be content with what He gives us in the present
 - Phil. 4:11-12 - “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

The Supply Of God

- God's promise for the future
 - 1Kings 17:14 - “For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’”
 - Psalm 37:25 - “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.”
 - Heb. 13:5 - “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
 - Job 23:10 - “But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”
 - John 14:2 - “In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”

The Supply Of God

- God will meet our needs, but not necessarily our wants.
 - Hagar wanted delivered from the desert; God gave her water instead
 - Gen. 21:19 - “Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.”

The Needs Met

- Faith in the will of God
 - Heb. 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
 - Mark 11:22 - “So Jesus answered and said to them, Have faith in God.”

The Needs Met

- Faith in the ways of God
 - God did not send a king to take care of Elijah; He sent carrion birds and an impoverished widow
 - Isa. 55:8-9 - “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

The Needs Met

- Faith in the work of God
 - 1Kings 17:12-15 - “So she said, As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said to her, Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.' 15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.”

The Needs Met

- Faith in the word of God
 - 1Kings 17:14 - “Thus says the LORD God of Israel”
 - Psalm 62:11 - “God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.”
 - Psalm 119:105 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”
 - Heb. 11:3 - “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”
 - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

The Needs Met

- Faith in the wonders of God
 - Eph. 3:20 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”

The Needs Met

- It is faith that enables us to see the promises of God fulfilled beyond our earthly expectations
 - Hab. 2:4 - “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.”
 - Rom. 1:17 - “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith”
 - Heb. 11:13 - “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”