

# MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS.

*“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”—  
Philippians 4:19*

The Apostle Paul, in acknowledging the sacrifice of his Philippian brethren in supplying his temporal needs is here assuring them that they will be recompensed by a kind and generous God.

Yet, as look down the pages of history, we often see faithful and zealous servants of God persecuted and among the poorer of the human race. We even read of Jesus, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.” (Matthew 8:20) Did God go back on his promise? Did Paul overstate the assurance of his God? What is the need which God promises to supply? What must the Christian do to obtain it?

In order to understand the answers to these questions we need to examine the difference between God’s dealings with Israel in ancient times and his dealings with the church of Christ.

Ancient Israel was indeed promised material blessings for heeding God’s word and obeying his law. For instance, we read in Deuteronomy 28:2,5—

*And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God...Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.”*

In contrast, the followers of Jesus are told in Matthew 16:25—

*“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”*

And again in 2 Timothy 3:12—

*“Yea, and all that live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

In fact, the relationship between the Christian and his God is prophetically called “a covenant of sacrifice” in Psalms 50:5—

*Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.*

In view of this commitment of Jesus’ followers to yield their lives through sacrifice, and the Scriptural prediction that they would be a persecuted class, even unto the losing of their lives, why does the Apostle Paul assure them that his God will supply all their needs?

## **A CHRISTIAN’S NEEDS**

A Christian’s needs are simple and few. Having made a covenant to sacrifice their very life for God, they include very little in the line of material possessions. He is not promised wealth, therefore he does not pray for it. Having offered his life to God, he does not expect nor pray for health.

**NECESSITIES**—The Christian is encouraged to pray for temporal necessities for daily living:

*“Give us this day our daily bread.”—Matthew 6:11*

However, beyond the essentials for living, the Christian is not encouraged to ask for other temporal blessings. But there are other needs - - more serious needs - - which every Christian has, and for which he is admonished to pray.

These needs, spiritual needs, are summarized as belonging to two categories in 2 Peter 1:3,4—

*“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.”*

The Christian's real need, his spiritual needs, are satisfied by "great and precious promises" fulfilled.

### **THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE**

What are the necessities for life which he has promised?

**FORGIVENESS**—*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 John 1:9*

This forgiveness for our sins is the first essential to anyone seeking a relationship with God, for as the Psalmist writes:

*"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."—Psalm 51:5*

The sin and iniquity of which all are guilty is a hereditary matter. Being born in the human race, all have inherited the original sin of the first man, Adam.

Having confessed the fact that we have no merit to claim on our own, we are supplied with forgiveness. But this is only the first necessity for a new life.

**ATONEMENT** *"We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."—Romans 5:11*

This promise of atonement, or payment, for our sins is not exclusive to the church, but will be extended, in God's due time, to the entire world of mankind.

*"He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."—1 John 2:2*

Having received Atonement, the Christian is spoken of as "justified," or made right. This makes him an "acceptable" gift (Romans 12:1,2) to render himself unto God in a complete dedication, or consecration. It is then that he receives the next gift necessary for **life**.

**A NEW LIFE** *—Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."—James 1:18*

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."—1 Peter 1:3,4*

The "lively hope" spoken of here is nothing less than an invitation to be with Jesus forever in heaven. As the Apostle Paul writes in Hebrews 3:1—*"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Jesus Christ."*

This gift of "begettal" is accomplished by an infusion of God's holy Spirit, starting in them a new life, a spiritual one.

These three gifts, then: (1) forgiveness of Adamic sin, (2) atonement and payment of Christ's ransom sacrifice for that sin, and (3) begettal to a new life are all provisions of God that "**pertain to life.**"

### **THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO GODLINESS**

But, having started a new life in Christ, we are but "babes." As children, we know not what is expected of us. Without continuous help we could never maintain the new life which we have obtained by his gracious provisions.

But, as the Apostle assures us in our opening text, “My God shall supply **all** your need”—not only those pertaining unto life, but also those pertaining to godliness.

**DIRECTION**—“*And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*” (Isaiah 30:21)

The Christian needs guidance as to how the Lord would have him to walk. Here, again, God’s methods of providing this direction differ from his ways with ancient Israel. To them he would often send an angel to materialize and point out His directions for His people.

For the Christian, it is not a word “in front of him” but a “word behind thee” that provides direction. The Lord directs his people through the voice of experience. As we evaluate our course in life, and compare it with Scriptural counsel, we learn to trace the providences of God, indicating whether we have chosen the right or wrong path.

**CONTINUING FORGIVENESS**—“*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ in righteous.*”—1 John 2:1

*“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”—Hebrews 7:25*

Not only is the Christian saved from the guilt of the original Adamic sin, but, if repentant, continues to obtain forgiveness for his continuing shortcomings through the Advocate, Jesus Christ.

**GOD’S ABIDING PRESENCE**—“*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*”—Hebrews 13:5

Earthly friends may abide for a shorter or longer time, but there is none that promises a more abiding presence than God himself. The assurance of this promise is even more emphasized in the original Greek.

In the Greek language, as opposed to English, the repetition of a negative does not cancel out another negative, but multiplies its effect. In the Greek there are no less than five negatives in this text. Noticing this effect, the Wuest translation renders this verse:

*“I will never, never leave thee; I will not, I will not, I will not let you down.”*

God, who is not prone to exaggeration, commits himself to his continuing presence no less than five times in one verse!

**PEACE**—“*When he (God) giveth quietness, who then can make trouble –Job 34:29*

*“Peace I leave unto you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”—John 14:27*

It is only too common in today’s world to give a gift and then request it back. This is not the way Jesus promised to give peace to his followers. “**Not as the world giveth.**” But permanently, as an abiding possession, he will supply our need for a peaceful heart.

However, as in so many of God’s promises, there are conditions attached to obtaining this peace. The Psalmist gives one of these in Psalms 119:165—

*“Great peace have **they which love thy law:** and nothing shall offend them.”*

Another condition is put forth in Isaiah 26:3—

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; **because he trusteth in thee.**”*

***FAITHFULNESS TO THE END—Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”—Phillipians 1:6***

It is one thing to start the process of salvation, it is quite another to complete that process. The process of proceeding from “life” to “godliness” is fraught with dangers and difficulties. To avoid the countless pitfalls of the “narrow way” requires the assurance that the “Author” of our salvation is also its “Finisher.” That is, undoubtedly, the greatest of the “needs” which God will provide.”

*“Faithful is he that calleth you , who also will do it.”—1 Thessalonians 5:24*

*“Looking unto Jesus the author and **finisher** of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”—Hebrews 12:2*

If the “joys” that were set before Jesus were sufficient incentive to spur him on to faithfulness, so should they be for his followers. Though the way may be rough, it is lined with the “exceeding great and precious promises” of God, assuring us that he will indeed “supply all our needs through Christ Jesus.”

## ***Attaining Peace In A World of Turmoil***

*We live in a high pressure society where achievement is measured by how high someone reaches on the corporate ladder, or how many degrees one can list after his name. In today’s world, peace is a commodity bought with financial security. Trying to live in a peaceful Christian life in this environment can be very difficult. The Scriptures convey God’s promise to fill our lives with peace. However, this peace is not attained through worldly achievements. God offers each and every Christian a peace of heart and mind that is not affected by external forces around him. He offers a peace that no one, or no trial, can take away.*

### ***➤ God’s Own Peace***

*God’s peace is absolute. No one can change his plans or disrupt what he has set into motion. His power guarantees that. In addition, he knows that his wisdom will never make a mistake. God’s total control and authority establishes his peace. These resources, which generate God’s peace, are the same resources he offers to every sincere Christian who is seeking him. That is why Christian peace can be immovable in trouble. It is not based on confidence in one’s own ability to overcome the trouble, but in God’s. Because of that, there is a very strong relationship between faith in God, and peace of heart. The deeper an individual’s faith in God and **his** ability, the more sure his peace of heart will be. The stronger one’s confidence that God is able and willing to help in times of trouble, the more stable one’s mental outlook will be.*

### ***➤ Contentment Brings Peace***

*One of the key elements which comprises Christian peace is contentment. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:6 that “.....godliness with contentment is great gain.” This contentment is established by being satisfied in doing God’s will in any matter of our life. It is removing self-will totally from the picture. In every decision we make we should seek to understand what the Lord would have us do. The importance of this cannot be overemphasized. Once we know his will, in any given situation, we need to find contentment in that. As we mature in Christ we will learn to trust God’s will. We will see that wisdom is always his guiding force. His will cannot fail, therefore, if we obey his will, we cannot fail.*

### ***➤ The Enemy of Peace***

*The greatest enemy of Christian peace is fear. Fear that something will go wrong causes us to worry, and our hearts lose the calm assuring peace that God provides. Interestingly enough, the antidote for fear is love. We’re told in 1 John 4:18 that, “there is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment...” This may strike us as unusual at first. What is the relationship between love and fear? How can love cast out fear? The love that John speaks about is perfect love. It is a love that is oriented to the interests of others. It does not think of self. Fear, on the other hand, is a selfish dread. It is self*

oriented. It is being afraid of being hurt in some way. When we have selfless love, and are interested in the highest spiritual welfare of others, the result is that fear is no longer an issue.

Anytime there is a situation in a Christian's life where we are not at peace, the reason will generally be one of the two elements mentioned above. Either we are not content in God's will for us, or we are being selfish, and self centered, lacking perfect love. If we find this to be true, then, we have a specific area to concentrate on, and to take the Lord in prayer. The degree of peace that we have in our life is a reflection of the closeness we have to the Lord. That closeness comes from thinking about him, studying his word, and wanting him to have an active role in our life. This attitude will make us want God to direct us in every direction we make. **This** is our source of strength and peace.

### WHAT GOD DID FOR US

*We had a debt we could not pay.*

*He paid a debt he did not have.*