

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

Matthew 6:24-33, 7:7-11

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- “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)

God Gives By His Providence

- God universally provides for everyone
 - Matt. 5:45 - “That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”
 - Psalm 145:9 - “The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.”
 - Acts 14:17 - “Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

God Gives By His Providence

- God's general providence testifies that God is and that He loves humankind. We need to trust it.
- "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)

God Supplies Through Our Labor

- “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)

God Supplies Through Our Labor

- God's plan for man's subsistence, for the care of his family, and for the general health of his community and country is that he works for his bread.
- For ourselves
 - 2Thes. 3:10-12 - "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread."

God Supplies Through Our Labor

- For our families
 - 1Tim. 5:8 - “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- For our community and country
 - Eph. 4:28 - “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

God Provides Through His Children

- Luke 6:38 - “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you”
- Luke 8:2-3 - “And certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities--Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.”

God Provides Through His Children

- Matt. 27:55 - “And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar”
- Mark 10:29-30 - “So Jesus answered and said, Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.”

God Provides Through His Children

- Acts 11:29-30 - “Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”
- Acts 2:44-45 - “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”

God Provides Through His Children

- James 1:27 - “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”
- “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)

God Delivers Help in Answer to Prayers

- Ask God
 - Matt. 6:11 - “Give us this day our daily bread.”
 - James 4:2 - “...you do not have because you do not ask”

God Delivers Help in Answer to Prayers

- Luke 18:1-8 - “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, Get justice for me from my adversary. 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. 6 Then the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

God Delivers Help in Answer to Prayers

- Ask the children of God
 - Matt. 5:42 - “Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.”
 - Matt. 25:35-40 - “I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. 37 Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'”

God Delivers Help in Answer to Prayers

- 1Tim. 6:18-19 - “Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”
- Gal. 6:10 - “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

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- Psalm 37:25 - “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.”
- 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.
- His provisions are greater and surer than anything we can supply for ourselves; His provisions are not for something so short and inglorious as life under the sun; His provisions carry us into eternity

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