

In search of...

Truth & Right

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God's Providence

Hopefully you believe that God is our Creator, a faith based on His word and the evidence we see all around us of His power and majesty. If you believe that, then you should also naturally believe that, as our Creator, God loves us and cares for our well-being; I highly doubt that you would disagree with that, especially if you believe that He sent His only Son down here to die for our sins. It is regarding such a belief in God and His relationship with us that I want to speak to you today.

As stated, God's care and compassion towards humanity is plain to see, and there are ample passages of Scripture to bear witness to it, for example,

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you." (1 Pet. 5:6-7)

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent

His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10)

Those are just two instances where we see God's steadfast love emphasized. What I would really like to do, though, is spend the remainder of this article focusing on another passage and its meaning. Examine Philippians 4:19-20...

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen."

Let me ask you again: do you really believe that God cares for us? Do you believe that the Bible is His inspired word and is absolute truth? If so, do you believe that God not only CAN provide for our needs, but DOES provide for us? You should! Maybe sometimes we are hesitant to talk

about the providence of God out of fear of sounding like we teach false doctrine or claim to have some special revelation from the Lord. Whatever the reason, we should not be afraid to proclaim our faith in God's promises to care for His people; rather, we should speak of them in reverent tones of thanksgiving!

God's providence is seen numerous times throughout the Bible, but consider just a couple occasions from the Old Testament:

"And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.' So they went both of them together." (Gen. 22:7-8)

Think of Joseph and the account of his life. It was God's will working through the actions of others to place him in high office to save the lives of all the Egyptians as well as his family. We so often cannot see it at present, being so caught up in the here and now, but God is in control and He has promised to care for His children. Jesus stated in His Sermon on the Mount, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Now, has there ever been a moment in your life where you were worried and didn't know what to do? Perhaps a bill, that you weren't sure how you could pay it, or a loved one sick and you could not see a way to see them or help them? I'm talking about a time in your life when you were literally in need. Most of us have

it pretty good, all things considered; in this day and age, in this country, we are quite rich, speaking in an earthly manner. But even so, you may have found yourself at a point where you desperately needed help.

I ask: what happened? How did you get past such a daunting obstacle? Clearly, if you are reading this now, and thinking of those things in the past tense, something happened. You were somehow able to get the help you needed. Do not discredit the providence of God. Please understand: I'm not saying that a check for the exact amount of money you need will appear on your doorstep signed, "From your heavenly Father." Nor am I saying that God will get us out of every uncomfortable or inconvenient situation that life throws at us.

The thing is, God has promised that, if we trust in Him, putting His kingdom and righteousness first, He will provide for our needs. Some times, what we think we need is actually just something we want but can do without. God never said that this life on earth would be a bed of roses. In addition, a lot of times we don't understand what it is that we need. Children need loving discipline from their parents, but if you ask any child, I'm sure they'll tell you that they don't need to be spanked.

Everything that I'm saying here should not sound outlandish to you; again, if you believe in God and in His word, then you readily accept that He has provided us with life and with the ability to know His will and be obedient to it. Furthermore, you know that He cares for us on so many levels.

"Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you and entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 1:10-11)

Yes, I know that speaks of the coming judgment and eternity, but if we can accept that God will provide for us in that regard, is it really such a huge leap to say that He provides for us in the present day? In fact, we KNOW that He is actively watching out for us in our lives here on earth! Remember 1 Cor. 10:13.

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

Why is it that we preach and teach so much about God's faithful love, and yet seem to try to limit His power in our lives?! The Lord does not miraculously give us exactly what we want, how we want it, and when we want it, but He knows what we need far better than we do. Have faith, and know that, if you trust in Him, God will provide. We don't know what it is He'll provide, so don't assume, but be thankful, no matter what it may be. God is good, all the time!

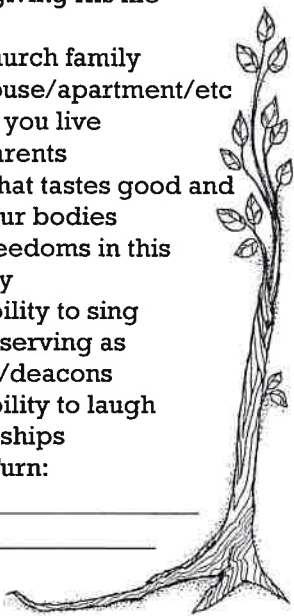
The next time you find yourself facing a need (a real need), pray about it, give it to the Father, and have the attitude Jesus did to say, "Not my will, but your will be done."

Jarred Currence

Dear God,
thank you for being there
when nobody else was.

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- The house/apartment/etc where you live
- Our parents
- Food that tastes good and fuels our bodies
- Our freedoms in this country
- The ability to sing
- Those serving as elders/deacons
- The ability to laugh
- Friendships
- Your Turn:



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WELLSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST

92 Rose Cottage Lane
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422

<http://www.truthandright.org>



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Fifth Sunday Photos

Every fifth Sunday of the month, we try to highlight some of great things happening around our congregation that were captured through photography. If you happen to get a good picture of a member doing work for the Lord, please feel free to post it on our Facebook page or tweet us @wellsburgchurch #fifthsundayphotos or e-mail us at minister@truthandright.org with a little description of what is happening in the picture.



On December 28, Danny Roberts, Ed & Marie's son, was baptized into Christ for the remission of his sins! The angels rejoice with us!

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
– 2 Cor. 5:17*

Dwight Minor snapped this picture of brethren playing a game. Dwight & Nicole showed hospitality and had many over on New Year's Eve.

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling." – 1 Pet. 4:8-9

