

# God Is Our Provider

The Lord has impressed upon me over and over in this past week how He wants to provide for us all abundantly, if we will simply trust Him rely on Him alone.

We can look around us and see an amazing testimony to the Lord's provision in countless ways and we praise Him for it. But, did you ever stop and think and ask yourself why our heavenly Father has blessed us so abundantly? Is it for our personal pleasure? Perhaps you think you earned all that you have and God had nothing to do with it; how about that breath you just took? From the greatest to the smallest thing, every good and perfect thing comes from above.

No, the blessings and provision of God is not for our selfish enjoyment and greedy consumption. I believe that God blesses us that we might be a blessing to others. We are not to contain His blessings we are to experience them and pass them on in the manner He directs.

John 3:16, <sup>16</sup> “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.”

## How Do I Love Thee? (Sonnet 43)

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.*

*I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.*

This speaks of human love that is captured in a masterful word picture, yet it pails in comparison to the supernatural love God has given us and we in return are to give to Him. It's life giving love that exceeds our ability to comprehend or define. He first provided this to us. And that is just the beginning! This love relationship with God is meant to change your life.

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Our heavenly Father provides even a way to remember it all as we take the bread and cup of the Lord's table to specifically remember what He did for us; individually, corporately and body wide in His world wide church.

His message to us this morning is to be mindful of His provision and be good stewards of all He has provided. From our homes or apartments to our vehicles, even if for now all you have are shoes and two good legs, to our finances, be they great or small, we must be good stewards of all that God has provided to us. When we are good stewards with what ever He has entrusted us with He will then trust us with even more and some day, when we graduate to heaven He will give us authority that is comparable to the degree of trust we have demonstrated through good stewardship.

READ - The Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14-30

The man in verse 1 that is traveling represents Jesus Christ who was very much a man and His traveling to the far country was Him going to Heaven.

When he called "his own servants" this would be those that say they are Christian and thereby servants of the Lord. These are people he knows well and trusts. He knows them so well he knows their work habits and capabilities. He knows what he has invested in them just like God knows what He has invested in us. He knows our talents and our weaknesses and He knows what He has planned for us. When this man gives his own servants his personal wealth he is expecting more out of some than others. To those he has given much He expects much.

When the Lord saved each one of us He had a plan of what good works He had planned for us. He put in our character the qualities needed and allowed the crucible of time and circumstances to hammer out the character needed in us to persist, reach the final goal and complete the good works prepared beforehand for each of us. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

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When the reunion of master and servant happens, whether we go there or He comes here, there will be an account given by servant to master. This is just as sure for us as it was in the parable. We will give an account of what we did with the gifts and the talents that He trusted us with, and just like the servants of the rich man were rewarded we will be rewarded; each according to his good work.

The Lord has provided us with all that we need to invest our lives in the use of His gifting so that we would multiply that gift and in so doing be an example to the world around us of God at work in the world.

The diligent worker is contrasted with the fearful lazy one. Each of the two productive servants took what was given them and “went and traded ... and gained” They were involved in the on going work of the kingdom. They were at work, actively encountering the world and the society for the furtherance of their master’s kingdom. The lazy servant took what his master gave him and actually hid it! No one knew he was engaged in any sort of business for his master.

This directly applies to the children of God! What ever we are given by God as our natural talent we are to actively invest it in the commerce, the extension, the work of expanding His kingdom with the use of those gifts and talents. We each have been given something! Our responsibility is to identify it, multiply it and put it to work in the world around us so that He who supplies seed to the sower will cause the multiplication to your account

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (The Cheerful Giver)

<sup>6</sup> But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> *So let each one give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:

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*“ He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”*

<sup>10</sup> Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have *sown* and increase the fruits of your righteousness, <sup>11</sup> while *you are* enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. <sup>12</sup> For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, <sup>13</sup> while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal sharing with them and all *men*, <sup>14</sup> and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!

This is referring to finances but is an applicable principle in any area of gifting. When we give generously of our time, talents and treasures He who gave us the seeds in the first place will cause them to multiply. This is the organic process that God put in place from the beginning of time. We need to apply it to our lives and our philosophy of living especially where Spiritual matters are involved.

As we generously sow what ever God has given us He will cause it to multiply. That is why we do what we do; that is our motivation. That is our mandate from the creator of the universe who created us.

He provided us with a new life and everything that comes with it and tells us to, “Go!”

Where is He telling you to go? What talent did He leave with you that He has trusted you to invest your life into using it for His glory and the furtherance of the kingdom of God?

Don’t ever let your self be found to be the lazy and wicked servant that had to give up even what he originally had been given and was sent into outer darkness. He lost it all because he did nothing! Do nothing lose it all. Do what you can and God will reward you greatly! He is waiting to help you be all that He has destined you to be with His help and our partnership.