

June 11, 2020

### Because God loves you, He Provides- Part 3

Did you know that God loves you more than anyone else could ever love you?

God proves His love to you all the time by providing for you. You might ask yourself, how does He provide for me? God many times uses others and even us to help provide for needs. How many times has God come through for you when you needed something? And when others had a need, didn't God put it on your heart to help out in some way? This comes from the generous nature of God's provision.

2 Cor. 9:6-11, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

Everything we have comes from God. You might think to yourself, no, I earned my wage. I did this with my own strength. I achieved this with my own intelligence. Don't you know that you wouldn't have strength or intelligence or anything else unless God had given it to you? I love this story from an old "Daily Bread" devotional. It encapsulates the meaning of God's giving and ours: When I first graduated from college, I found myself needing to adopt a strict grocery budget—twenty-five dollars a week, to be exact. One day, while entering the checkout line, I suspected the groceries I'd selected cost slightly more than my remaining money. "Just stop when we reach twenty dollars," I told the cashier, and I was able to purchase everything I'd selected but a bag of peppers. As I was about to drive home, a man stopped by my car. "Here's your peppers, ma'am," he said, handing the bag to me. Before I had time to thank him, he was already walking away. Remembering the simple goodness of this act of kindness still warms my heart and brings to mind Jesus's words in Matthew 6:1, "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in Heaven." Criticizing those who made a show of giving to the needy, Jesus taught His disciples a different way. Instead of making giving all about them and their generosity, He urged that giving should be done so secretly it's like their left hand isn't even aware their right is giving! As one person's anonymous kindness reminded me, giving should never be about us. We give only because of what our generous God has so lavishly given us. As we give quietly and generously, we reflect who He is—and God receives the thanksgiving only He deserves –  
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Dear Father, everything we have comes from Your hand. Even the ability to earn our wages comes from the fact that You have given us the ability. Father, remind us today that You are our Provider of all good things. In Jesus Name, Amen

