

Provision Promises

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²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:25-34 NIV) *** The Bible teaches that when we put God first by believing in Jesus, God will meet our physical needs.

⁴⁵ And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’” (Matthew 6:5-13 NIV)

***One of the things we pray for in this prayer (the Lord’s Prayer) is daily bread. This means we pray for what we need to survive. Since this prayer is commanded for Christians to pray, we know that God will answer that request.

“³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” (Matthew 10:30 NIV) *** God is concerned with every part of our lives down to the point that the hairs on our head are numbered. This means our physical needs are certainly a concern to God.

“¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” (John 14:13-14 NIV) *** The New Testament gives Christians the privilege of offering prayers in line with God’s will. (1 John 3:19-23, 1 John 5:14-15) This means with persistent prayer, Christians can claim anything that is God’s will by praying in Jesus’s name. (Matthew 7:7-11) So what is God’s will for finding a job?

“¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’ ¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10-13 NIV) *** This passage commands Christians to work for a living. This shows that it is God’s will for us to work. This also shows that it is God’s will for us to find jobs when we need them.

“¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody” (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12 NIV) *** The Bible teaches it is the goal of Christians not to be dependent on anyone. This means we can reasonably pray for this in our lives. There are exceptions to this. If you are disabled and unable to work, there is no shame in collecting disability. If you are doing all you can to make a living, but fall struggle financially, there is no shame in collecting food stamps. Throughout the New Testament we see collections for the poor, and see rules for helping people who can’t take care of themselves. The help of others is sometimes one of the ways we get our daily bread. Everyone needs help sometimes.

Provision Limitations:

“⁴ Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.” (Proverbs 10:4 NIV) *** If we are seeking God for help with our finances, a rule we have to live by is we have to be willing to work. We can’t ask God to provide for our finances if we are unwilling to put in the effort to make a living.

“¹⁷ Whoever loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and olive oil will never be rich.” (Proverbs 21:17 NIV) *** God promised to provide daily bread. He didn’t promise to give us every pleasure we desire. Wine and olive oil in this passage represents lavish pleasures. If we seek God for provision, we have to be willing to live within our means.

Works Cited

Holy Bible: NIV. Zondervan, 2011.