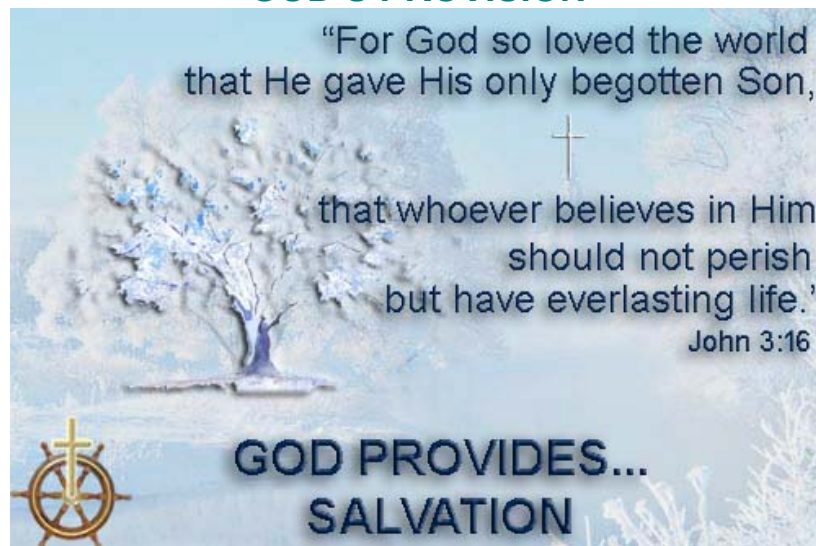


GOD'S PROVISION

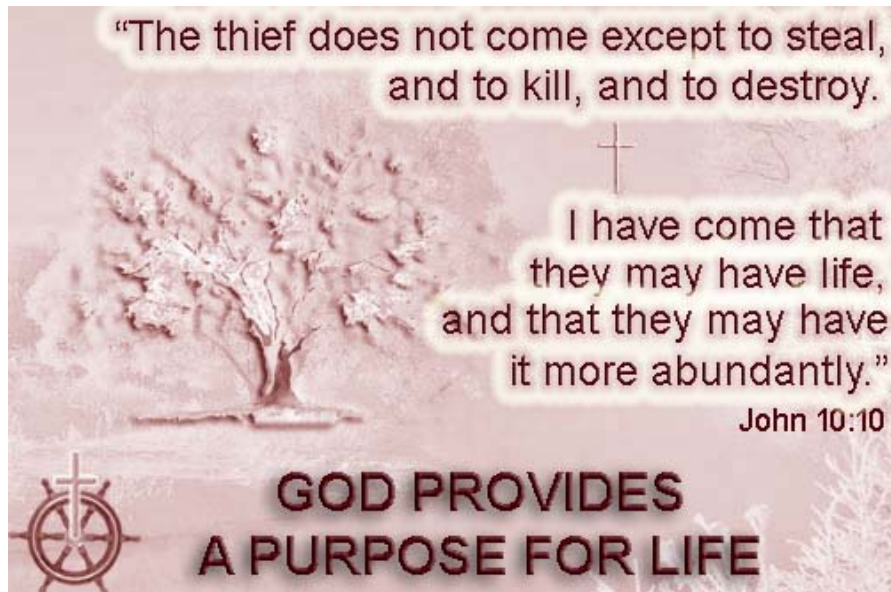


We oftentimes hear people say, “What does God ever do for us? He’s up there and we’re here, and He doesn’t care anyway.” How would we answer that? To start with, without God, we wouldn’t exist, period. Therefore, God is the source of life. Then, is there a purpose to this life, is that all there is?

The bible teaches us that there is an afterlife, and it is the ultimate purpose that God has decreed for anyone that ever lived, or will ever live on this earth. Then, what happens in the afterlife? The bible states that there are only two possibilities. One is to receive the gift of eternity in the presence of God and Christ, in the most glorious and perfect environment that we can’t even imagine. The other option is without God in a most atrocious and desperate environment.

Why are there two options? Simply, because of mankind’s sinful nature inherited following the disobedience of the first humans created by God. That’s why God offers salvation by faith in Christ, to receive eternal life in His presence, through repentance and committing to follow Christ. The reason Paul in Eph. 2:8-9 tells us “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

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Is there a core purpose for God to offer a plan for reconciliation, erase our death penalty, and provide us with eternal life in His presence? Why would God, who is holy and righteous, even offer a plan so we can be reconciled to Him and given eternal blessings?

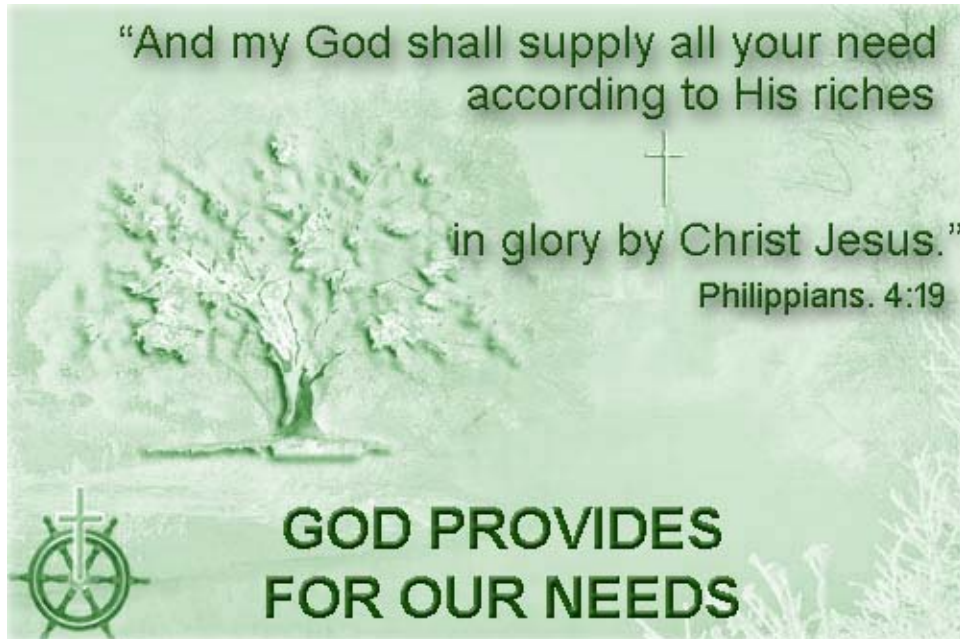
The answer is "For God so loved the world", found in John 3:16, when Nicodemus came to see Him at night.

In this world, people seek pleasure, to acquire possessions, are full of hatred and are constantly at war; all of this because they are tainted with sin, harbor evil in their hearts, and are primarily focused on themselves without even any thought for God.

Yet, God who hates sin and is holy and righteous, didn't simply write us off following the fall of man, but rather sought to provide us with a solution to be reestablished as His legitimate children. And God did it by offering His only Son to pay the price of sin on our behalf. In other words, God in His infinite wisdom loved us to the point of providing the only sacrifice that could erase our death penalty for sin, and He did at His own cost, Christ Jesus.

Have we ever seen or heard of a better proof of love, than God offering to die in our stead, and accepting to pay the price for our death sentence?

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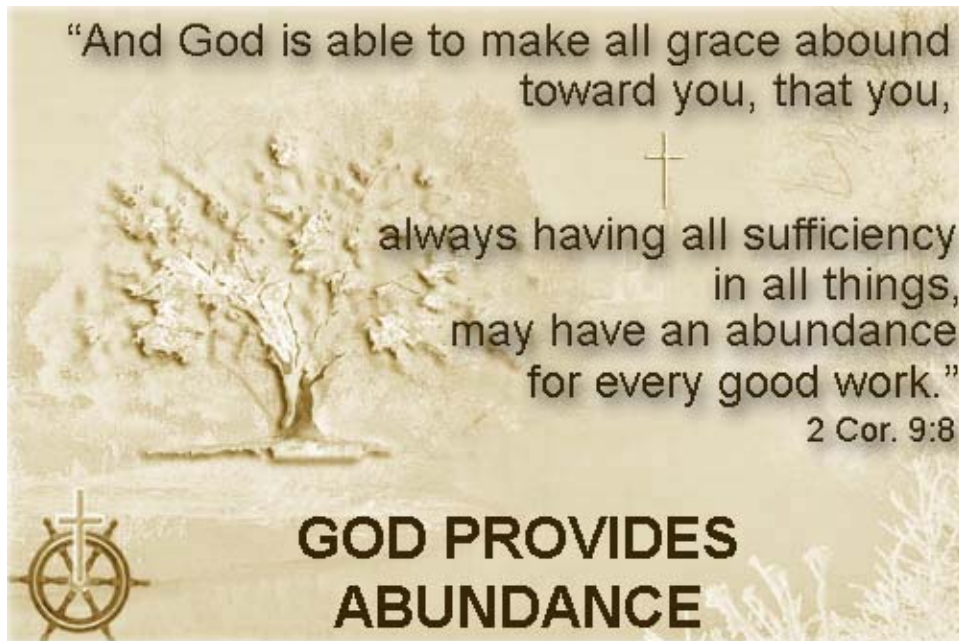


An important aspect of our lives has to do with having shelter and food, and through creation, God gave us the necessary elements and the mental and physical abilities to provide for ourselves and family. The bible tell us that God will supply all our needs, which also implies that God expects us to use those talents He gave us and the elements of His creation for that purpose.

Perhaps the biggest deception of the world is that we replaced needs with wants. This drives people to desire every possible toy for pleasure, they lust for luxuries and overwhelming abundance, and thus seek to get more each day. As a result, they feel unfulfilled, are fooled into thinking they should have as much as the neighbor, and the pursuit of life becomes the things of this world, the flesh, rather than seeking God's Kingdom.

In Matthew 7:11 Jesus said, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" In other words, if we seek God first and foremost, we need not worry about our needs being met. God always meets our needs when we seek to prosper spiritually, and not focus on the things of this world.

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Are people sometimes blessed beyond their needs and expectations? If so, is there a reason or purpose for God to bless people with abundance?

God indeed sometimes blesses those who seek Him with all their hearts, whose desires are not for the things of this world, but rather for His Kingdom. God's purpose to so bless us is so we become a channel God can use to help His kingdom and those who can't provide for themselves.

Jesus in Luke 6:38 said: "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." This scripture is oftentimes used to by false prophets to deceive people into giving with the promise they'll receive a hundredfold. However, in verse 36 preceding, Jesus said, "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

In essence, our reason to give is not related to receive in return, but rather show the mercy that Christ has shown for us. And when our hearts are focused on serving God through what He blesses us with, then God provides even more blessings so we can be the servant passing it out on behalf of the Master, Christ.

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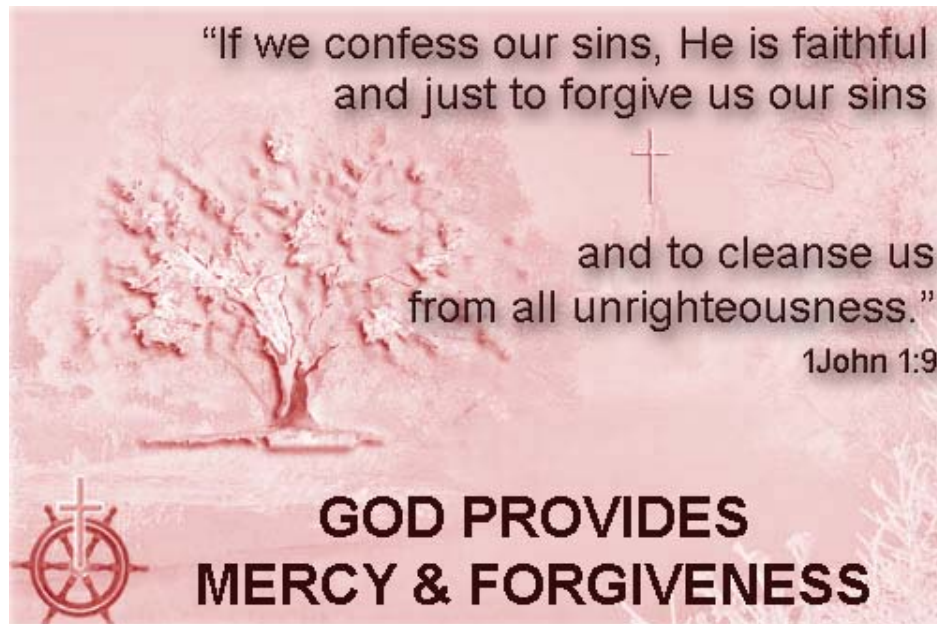
Wisdom is defined as acquiring knowledge and making sound judgment decisions, as it pertains to life. We use human wisdom in making decisions for a career, finances, and many other situations of life. While the world claims to be wise, what we see or hear most of the time is anything but wisdom.

Is there a difference between God's wisdom and the world's? Paul in 1 Cor. 3:18-19 said, "Let no one deceive himself... For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." Have we considered that God is the creator, and has all answers to life's situations?

In 1 Kings 3:5 God said to Solomon: "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered (V.9), "Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong." Just as with Solomon, we all have access to God for wisdom if we really desire to live a wise and fruitful life for Christ. That's why in Proverbs 3:5-6 Solomon wrote: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

To God, we are the reason for all His creation and He will give wisdom to whoever seeks Him, submits and simply asks! Do we?

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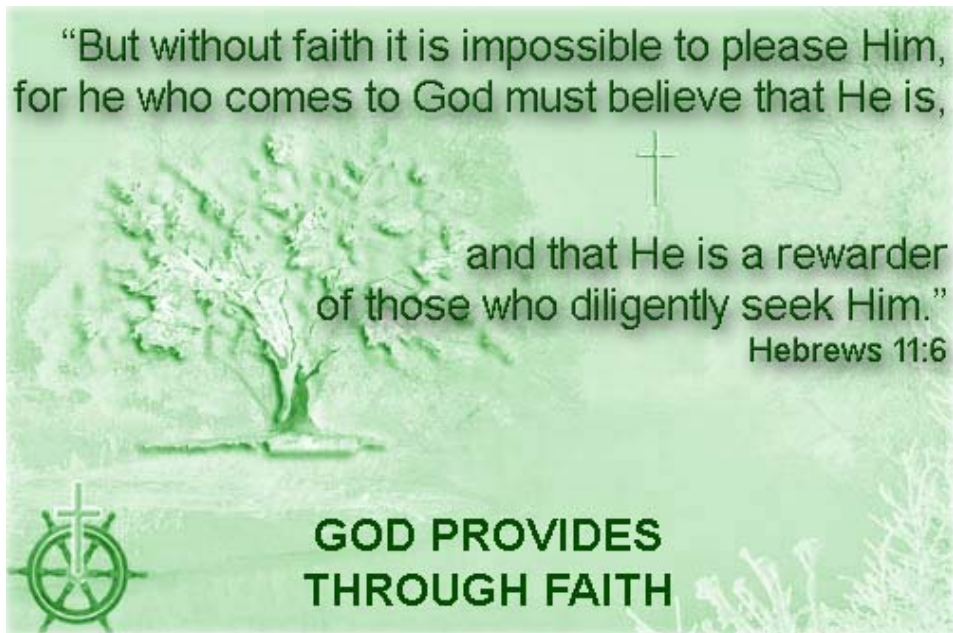
Throughout the Word of God, the core theme could be defined as God's Sovereignty, Power, Holiness and Love for mankind, the reason He offers salvation through Christ to cleanse us from sin. Effectively, God grants mercy and forgiveness to whoever repents and surrenders their lives to follow Christ.

What is forgiveness; is it to say I forgive you but, (fill in the blanks)? Or is it unconditional for anyone who truly repents? The bible tells us that when we repent, God doesn't remember our sins. David said in Psalm 103:12, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

Paul in Hebrews 4:16 said, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." In other words, anyone who truly seeks repentance with the intent to follow God at His Word always has access to God's Throne of Grace.

Have we ever considered that it is the God of the Universe, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, who offers the world to be welcomed and accepted in His Kingdom? In essence, anyone who truly repents and surrenders their lives to Christ is welcomed and accepted in God's Kingdom? Can we say, "Thank You God"?

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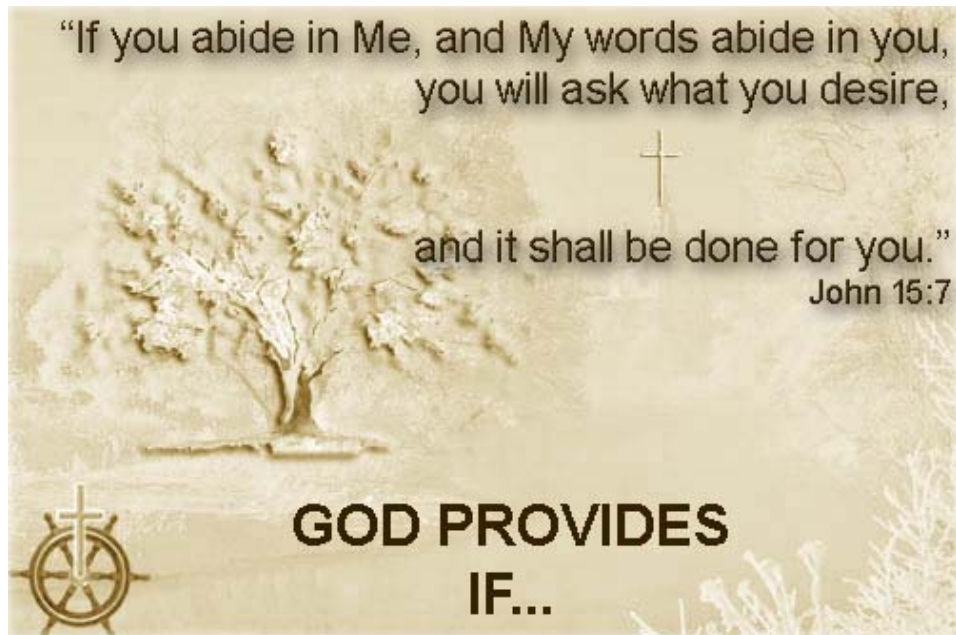


How do we access God's provisions for our lives? How are we granted salvation, provided for our needs, receive God's blessings of forgiveness, mercy and wisdom?

The bible clearly identifies for us the core element that God requires, and it is simply and purely FAITH. That's why Paul in 2 Cor. 5:7 states "For we walk by faith, not by sight." We must in other words use the eyes of our spirit rather than the flesh. The reason the world tends to ridicule true believers, is because they can't understand through their sin tainted lives the righteousness of God. They can only see in the physical, as they are spiritually dead. To illustrate this, Paul said, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Tim 1:7) In essence, faith is the exact opposite of fear, the reason we trust God even with our lives.

In simple terms, faith consists of believing God at His Word, period. That's why Jesus gave us a clear definition of applying faith to our lives this way: "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Mat. 21:22) Paul added, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philip. 1:6)

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Are there conditions to receive God’s provision for a fulfilled, blessed, and peaceful life on this earth? Christ, to this effect, made it clear that we must abide in Him and His Word must abide in us. When we live for God, our desires aren’t for the things of this world, but we rather live to honor and please God.

This world is focused on material possessions, power, control and whatever pleases the flesh. Yet, they truly have no control whatsoever, as there is an unknown appointed time when they will face the reality of death, and then comes judgment. Jesus said in Luke 12:15, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” Mat. 6:33 says, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Psalm 37:4 highlights what God desires from His children, just as any father does; “Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” In other words, when Christ is the center of our hearts and lives, whatever we ask for will clearly be according to His will and God will deliver.

In essence, we can live with His peace in our hearts, if we simply trust God in all situations.

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