

WILL GOD MEET YOUR NEEDS IN TROUBLED TIMES? Part 2

For those of you who looked at the 'Scriptures Concerning Financial Provision' in last month's Journal of HOPE, this short teaching will sound familiar. In the midst of "troubled times" it is common that *"the love of many will wax cold"* (Matt. 24:12). There's the legitimate problem for many, that they simply don't have finances to help others with! God knows our heart, and our heart's desire. Many Christians WANT to give, but aren't able. This message is to those who could give to God's work around the world (or in their own city), could give to help the orphans, widows and brokenhearted. Yet because of fear or selfishness, fearful of what might happen, or unwilling to adjust priorities, they are not allowing the love of Jesus to continue working through their giving.

Friends, shutting out the reality of the needs of others in order to protect ourselves or our pleasures is not the response that will bring His blessing during troubled times. Proverbs 11:24 says, *"There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due (from fear or selfishness), and yet it results only in want."* *"He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses"* (Prov. 28:27). Curses? We like to think that's not possible in the "age of grace", but the reality of "reaping and sowing" (Galatians 6:7-8, New Testament) is still very much in effect. If we sow decisions based on fear, can we expect blessing from our Father? If we sow

At right is Petta Kamalamma, one of our very first widows in the HOPE Manna Program. She is holding Smitha's Blessy at 3 or 4 months old. Petta Kamalamma, one of several widows that HOPE has had the honor of helping in her baptism, died in November. She has been in bad health for about a year and was not part of HMP for several months. Thank You Lord for letting us be a part of this sweet woman's life here on earth! *"In the twinkling of an eye...we shall be changed!" 1Corinth. 15:52*



decisions based on selfishness and not wanting to sacrifice for the sake of others, can we expect His blessings? PLEASE pray about this message: no matter our excuses, *"God is not mocked"* and our choices will bring consequences. The HOPE children sing a sweet song: "God's love is so wonderful (3x), O wonderful love. It's so high you can't get over it, so deep you can't get under it, so wide you can't get around it, O wonderful love." In troubled times, let's guard our hearts and share that wonderful love!

"But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in Him?" 1John 3:17