

WILL GOD MEET YOUR NEEDS IN TROUBLED TIMES?

We all need the encouragement of the Scriptures during times of economic uncertainty. Faith in God's promises brings hope, which drives out the fears that try to assail our hearts, at least until the next time we get our eyes off of Jesus and onto the circumstances. This short message is to encourage our faith, but also to help us make sure that our hope for financial provision is based upon solid Biblical principals. Is it possible that our "faith" could be hanging on a misunderstanding of who God has promised to bless, trying to trust in God's promises when we are not meeting the conditions of those promises?

Example: Jesus said *"do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink...But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* Matt. 6:25-33. He tells us about the Father's great love, and His desire to care for us, but WHO will actually receive the promise of His provision? Those who *"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."*

We are comforted when we think of the fact that our God is a God of "unconditional love". But are we interpreting that phrase correctly? The love of God to send His Son is unconditional. We did absolutely nothing to deserve that love. The love of the Cross is unconditional, available to the vilest of sinners (can you relate?). Still today, unconditional love is there for all men, *"not willing that ANY should perish, but that ALL would come to repentance."* Every time the sun rises and the rain falls, we see unconditional love demonstrated once again, *"for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust."* The wicked get the benefit of the rain because of "unconditional love", but without repenting can they claim the promise that God's going to meet all their needs, heal their bodies, deliver them from fear, give them wisdom, peace and joy, give them eternal life?? Like it or not, there are conditions that

must be met in order to receive many of the blessings He wants to pour out on His creation.

One of our favorite Scripture passages in regard to financial provision is found in Philippians 4:19, *"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* WHO is this promise given to? Is it given to selfish "Christians", un-

concerned about the poor or needs of the ministry of Christ upon the earth? Please read verses 14-18, and you will see that the Philippian church was a giving people, helping Paul in his ministry at different times.

"Will God Meet Your Needs In Troubled Times?" Please read these verses carefully and ask yourself the question: am **I** the person God is giving this promise to? *"How blessed is he who considers the helpless (or "poor"); the Lord will deliver HIM in a day of trouble. The Lord will protect him and keep him alive, and he shall be called blessed upon the earth"* Psalms 41:1-2. Friends, this world is in a time of economic uncertainty. MANY, out of fear or selfishness are cutting back on their giving towards God's work for the needy and the lost (though still found regularly in the restaurants and dept. stores). If we truly believe God's Word, where should our priorities be? Where should our heart be? Our faith? In the last days, *"the love of many will grow cold"* Matt. 24:12. Let that not be said of us! In faith and love, let us continue to be a channel of blessing to the hurting and lost.



Blessy Joy joining others in prayer