

“Giving and Needs Being Met Go Hand in Hand”

Philippians 4:19 “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory.”

As a college student at the Baptist College of Florida, God was teaching me that He would supply all my needs. Notice I said “needs” and not “wants.” There were many things that I was accustomed to having that I had to do without, like supper. Many nights, for my evening meal, I ate a bag of microwave popcorn. Boy, was I glad to get it! After watching me for several nights, one of the dorm proctors inquired if this was all I was eating for supper. I very hesitantly said, “Yes.” I declined some options he suggested. I was trusting God to meet my needs. I had two good meals paid for at the college. You see, I could have borrowed money or charged a bunch of things on a credit card and thought this was a need. I chose not to do that. Not long after that I met Delana. She started to cook for me occasionally at night, AMEN!

During those days, our dates consisted of two \$.99 chicken sandwiches and two cups of water at Checkers. For \$2.12 we had a gourmet chicken meal and the best water in Dothan, AL. That was almost 10 years ago. God has taught us how to trust Him. He has provided for us and our ministry in amazing ways. I could write 50 articles and still not begin to tell you all the ways He has met our needs. He may have even used you. We are so grateful.

Since was met, God has allowed Delana and I to give to the Lord and His work. Not just with our time and talent, but with our treasure. Now I do not claim to be the best giver. I may not give as much in quantity as many are able. God is looking for equal sacrifice not equal amounts.

I am amazed that some, not all, saint’s giving seems to be based on what is going on in the economy, rather than on the needs of God’s people. Who is in control of what we get and give? The economy or God? I was shocked to see a statistic that only 8% of God’s people tithe! That means the other 92% of people, who claim to be saved, never get to the point where they can give an offering. The tithe is 10%. What is given above that is the offering. If all God’s people would tithe, the church would never have to ask for special offerings for the budget and building needs of the church. Can you imagine what could be done for the kingdom if the 92% would just give a tenth? By the way, when I was eating microwave popcorn for supper, I was tithing.

At first glance at Philippians 4:19, you might think that this is a “blanket” verse to always get what I want or think I need. Sometimes God withholds things to get our attention or to grow us to be like His Son. **Paul is writing this verse in lieu of the fact that the saints at Philippi gave so sacrificially to the Lord’s work they found themselves in need.** I have not found in the New Testament where giving is to be done with meticulous calculation. If that is the case, the widow, who gave all she had, should not have been given as an example by Jesus (Mark 12:41-44). She gave out of her poverty not her surplus. She gave more in the eyes of Jesus than those who put in large amounts.

When I think I am doing great in the area of giving, all I have to do is look at the examples of the saints at Philippi and the widow in Mark 12. Then I see that there could always be more given. God wants us to be obedient in our giving. This begins with the tithe and then, according to His

leadership, moves to additional amounts. If Jesus is Lord of our lives, then He should be Lord of our finances. I hope you take the challenge to give to the work of the kingdom. There are many needs in our group of believers and around the globe. I know God will supply our needs, especially if we are giving to His work. I want to close with a short story told by C. H. Spurgeon. You could substitute the word "Christianity" for the word "religion."

"A man boasted that religion had been to him a very cheap thing costing him only a few cents a year. A good man said to him, 'The Lord have mercy on your little stingy soul.' If a man has no more religion than that, if he has not a religion that will make him generous, he has no religion at all."

By the way, Delana and I can still have a date for under \$5.00 and she loves it!!!