

Provider: The Theology and Practice of Provision

Pastor John Carmichael

[2Co 9:8 NASB95] 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Introduction:

- **Its time to know God as our Provider.**
- In Genesis 22, we read about how Abraham came to know God as the Provider.
 - It was there Abraham called God “The LORD Will Provides”.
 - This story points to Jesus’ redemption of humanity. It also points to God meeting our material needs as well as our spiritual needs.
 - God will provide is the central theme of the passage and the turning point in the story. Note Paul’s allusion to the story in Rom 8:32 (“how shall he not freely give us all things?”) as well as H. J. Schoeps, “The Sacrifice of Isaac in Paul’s Theology,” JBL 65 (1946): 385-92.
 - [Rom 8:32 NASB95] 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

What is the theology and practice of NT provision?

We see the theology and practice of NT provision from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

I. The NT theology of provision.

a. Amount of seed.

- i. [2Co 9:6 NASB95] 6 Now this [I say,] he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- ii. You determine the level of receiving by your level of giving.

b. Attitude of giving.

- i. [2Co 9:7 NASB95] 7 Each one [must do] just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- ii. Be purposed in your giving.
- iii. God loves givers because He is a giver.

c. Ability of the Provider.

- i. [2Co 9:8 NASB95] 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;
- ii. God is able
 - 1. All grace – empowerment.
 - 2. All sufficiency – no lack.
 - 3. Every good work – abundance for others.

II. The NT practice of provision.

a. Word motivated.

- i. [2Co 9:9 NASB95] 9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."
- ii. Psalm 112:9
- iii. Giving was based on the revelation of the Word of God.

b. Release of faith.

- i. [2Co 9:10-11 NASB95] 10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

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- ii. Faith for supply. [Jhn 16:24 NASB95] 24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.
- iii. Results in praise to God.

c. Focused on others.

- i. [2Co 9:12-13 NASB95] 12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. 13 Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for [your] obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,
- ii. [2Co 9:14 NASB95] 14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.
- iii. When we focus on prioritizing the Gospel and others, God sees to it that we are taken care of.
- iv. [Mar 10:29-30 NASB95] 29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.
- v. [Pro 19:17 NASB95] 17 One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.

- Knowing God as Provider is knowing that He will look out for you... He will see to it that you are taken care of... He will provide!
- Jesus' plan of provision will involve us working our assignment by being willing to humble ourselves, submitting to His plan, expecting the supernatural and having a heart willing to fund the Gospel.
- When this is done right, God receive the praise! [2Co 9:15 NASB95] 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!