

Provider: “There” Is The Commanded Place of Provision

Pastor John Carmichael

[1Ki 17:16 NASB95] 16 The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.

- **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?
- I Kings 17

What does 1 Kings 17 teach about where does God provide and what does it look like?

Here are 6 truths about God being our Provider that we can learn from 1 Kings 17.

I. God’s provision happens in any environment.

- a. [1Ki 17:1 NASB95] 1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."
- b. Times of famine happen. Here a drought (no rain or dew) because of evil in the land & leaders.
- c. Provision can happen in good and bad environments.
- d. [Phl 4:12-13 NASB95] 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

II. God’s provision involves receiving direction, sometime specific direction.

- a. [1Ki 17:2, 8 NASB95] 2 The word of the LORD came to him, saying, ... 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,
- b. The “pressure” is on God speaking.
- c. “Hearing” is a desire to hear – NO PANIC – if you are crying out to hear, God will show you. If you have no direction, DO NOT PANIC, keep seeking and trusting Him.
- d. [Jer 33:3 NASB95] 3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'
- e. [Jer 29:11-14 NASB95] 11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 'You will seek Me and find [Me] when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

III. God’s provision can come from multiple and changing methods.

- a. [1Ki 17:4, 9 NASB95] 4 "It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have **commanded** the ravens to provide for you **there**." ... 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which

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belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have **commanded** a widow **there** to provide for you."

- b. There were both "commanded" and it was "there" that provision takes place.

IV. God's provision requires faith in Him and His Promises.

- a. [1Ki 17:9-10 NASB95] 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink."
- b. Not a real confidence builder to find your "source" "gathering sticks."
- c. How can she (or that) support me, she can barely support themselves.
- d. God's provision might not look like what you want it to look like.
- e. For me, ministry versus business world.
- f. Requires faith in God and His promises.

V. God's provision will demand humility and boldness.

- a. [1Ki 17:10-11 NASB95] 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink." 11 As she was going to get [it,] he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand."
- b. Humility – prophet asks her for help. Do your part. God will do His.
- c. Boldness – prophet asks for bread first. (Note: God had likely prepared her heart.)
- d. Be willing to ask for help. Be willing to make bold steps.
- e. Pride and timidity will keep you from experiencing God's provision.
- f. Story of becoming youth pastor at VCC.

VI. God's provision is supernatural but not always spectacular.

- a. [1Ki 17:12-16 NASB95] 12 But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die." 13 Then Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring [it] out to me, and afterward you may make [one] for yourself and for your son. 14 "For thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth.'" 15 So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for [many] days. 16 The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.
- b. She, Elijah, and her household was provided for. It changed their life.
- c. It was supernatural but not spectacular. It can be spectacular but not always.
- d. The bowl and the jar did not overflow, but it was never empty. It can overflow! (Pro. 3:10).
- e. Here it was progressive not suddenly. It was still very supernatural.
- f. A misunderstanding of this point has wrecked people's faith who only see spectacular provision as the way God provides.

- We can and need to know God as our provider through obedience, giving, trusting in His ways, remembering His promises, releasing faith and taking the limits off what He can do in and through us.

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- **I Kings 17:13 - [1Ki 17:13 NASB95] 13 Then Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring [it] out to me, and afterward you may make [one] for yourself and for your son.**
 - **Do not fear. Both Elijah and her.**
 - **Obey – go, do, give.**
 - **Know, expect, have faith it will happen “according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.” (v. 16)**
- **Jireh – NET Bible notes: Heb “will see for himself.” The construction means “to look out for; to see to it; to provide.”**
- **Knowing God as Provider is knowing that He will look out for you... He will see to it that your are taken care of... He will provide!**