

***Philippians 4:19 - And it is he who will supply all your needs from his riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us.***

***What do you need in order to do what God has called you to do?***

What do you think you need? Take a moment and think about your thinking. God's word is clear about supplying your needs and that is why the question is NOT "what do you want," but "what do you really need." Now, what might be the difference between what you THINK you need and what God KNOWS you need? That might be a real head-scratcher.

*Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right. ~ Max Lucado*

The Bible does not say that God will supply everything you think you WANT. It says ***he will supply all your needs*** according to his riches, (which are infinite), ***in glory***, (it's about God getting the glory), in Christ Jesus, (which is why he can supply your needs). God ***will supply all your needs*** for the things you are doing that align with his purposes.

- *Ephesians 3:16 (NLT) - I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.*

Your needs, your purpose, and God's purpose are interwoven. God wants to supply all of your needs, but your needs must be tied to doing something that gives him the glory. Everything God does *has purpose*. God does not make things up as he goes along. When you align your purpose with God's purpose – your needs will be fully met. After all, God is the infinite long-term strategic planner of the universe. Nothing he does is random or arbitrary. His purpose extends from the past to the present, and into the future, and it includes your life and your leadership. He created Adam and Eve with purpose - (Genesis 1:28). He sent his son Jesus Christ with purpose - (Luke 10:19 and Matthew 16:18). God HAS a purpose for your life! When you want to do God's will and fulfill his plans for your life, and if you ask him, he will give you the insights you need, the power to make things happen, and the strength to carry it through.

- *Exodus 15:2 (NIV) - **The LORD is my strength and my defense**; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.*
- *Colossians 1:11 (NIV) - Being **strengthened with all power according to his glorious might** so that you may have great endurance and patience,*

So, what IS your purpose during your time on earth? Is it the accumulation of wealth or "she who has the most toys wins?" Is it comfort or having so much money that you don't need God's help? Is it power, prestige, or that you'll be remembered for generations? Is your purpose a worldly "go with the flow" or "finding your soul's identity?" Is your purpose an emotional "feeling connected," "doing something for mankind," or "playing an important role in your profession?" Stop thinking worldly and start thinking eternal! God has a purpose for your life and once you accept that, your life will change and so will your needs. God WILL meet all your needs when your purpose and his align.

- *Romans 8:28 (NASB) - And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.***

*If not to God, you will surrender to the opinions or expectations of others, to money, to resentment, to fear, or to your own pride, lusts, or ego. You were designed to worship God and if you fail to worship Him, you will create other things (idols) to give your life to. You are free to choose, what you surrender to, but you are not free from the consequence of that choice. ~ Rick Warren*

Only an infinite God that has the ability to understand the infinite variables that happen every day in every situation. Only an infinite God can discern how every action, decision, choice, or

circumstance can change the course and outcome of your life. Only an infinite God has perfect knowledge of what you NEED for every situation of life.

- *Psalm 147:5 (NIV) - Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.*
- *Isaiah 40:28 (NLT) - Have you never heard? Have you never understood? **The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding.***

God promises to **supply all your needs**, but he does not promise to supply all of your wants. What do you **NEED** – is the question that you must address. There are certain basics of life that every person needs in order to survive, and God's supplying those basics is important, but he doesn't stop there. Only an infinite God, who sees your life from start to finish, can discern all the options and circumstances in order to meet your changing needs based on your faith, previous decisions, and the infinite circumstances that will, (or have), happen in your life. God does not control you or your decisions, so every decision you make changes every potential future and thus changes your needs.

- *Matthew 12:37 (NIV) - For **by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.***
- *Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) - In their hearts, **humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.***

You don't know the future, but God does! What might change about your needs if;

- you found you were going to die next week, \*you got sick or hurt, \*your business ended, \*you got fired, \*you got hired, \*you became forgetful, \*someone in your family needed your immediate help, \*you were replaced with a robot, \*you got too old to take care of yourself, \*you made a serious mistake, \*there was a disaster, \*war broke out, \*you had a breakdown, \*you were forced to move, \*Etc.

Your needs constantly change based on myriad circumstances and an incalculable number of decisions that happen throughout your life. Only an infinite God can keep track what is happening in YOUR life and still see how to help you next. Only an infinite God knows what you'll need in the future and how what you think you need right now – might even hurt you more than help. God answers your prayers for what you need but he does that based on your past, present, and future. His meeting your needs happens all the time in multiple ways that are sometimes apparent and many times impossible for you to comprehend this side of eternity. That is why sometimes God's answers for the things you say you need are – 'no' – or 'not yet.'

- *Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV) - For **I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.***
- *Job 14:5 (NLT) - **You have decided the length of our lives. You know how many months we will live.***
- *Psalm 31:14-15 (NLT) - But I am trusting you, O LORD, saying, "**You are my God!**" **My future is in your hands. Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly.***

God met all the needs for Adam and Eve, but they also had free will and made the decision to do the one thing that God told them not to do – and they suffered the consequences of that bad decision. Not matter how much they might have prayed afterward; God wasn't going to turn back the clock and reinstitute the Garden of Eden for them. Your life is like that too. You've made decisions that created a ripple effect that changes what God can do for you in the future. Some things are no longer possible – based on the consequences of some bad decisions or disobedience. But with God there is always a way to move forward. When you recognize your disobedience, (your sin), and confess your iniquity, God forgives and the two of you are moving forward again. He wants to help you because he loves you, but there will still be consequences things done in disobedience...just like with Adam and Eve, who were banished from the Garden of Eden., (Genesis 3:23) Afterward, they made a way forward with God's help and you are a part of that lineage, (Genesis 5:1).

- *1 John 1:9 (NIV) - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
- *Psalms 38:18 (ESV) - I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.*

An infinite God always sees a path for you to move forward toward great things and a more than abundant life, (John 10:10). All it takes on your part is to humble yourself before the Lord and let him lift you up. Pray for what you need, but let God sort out what is best for your life. God's perspective on your needs is far greater than your perspective.

- *James 4:10 (NIV) - Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*
- *Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) - So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*

Because God knows what you need more than you, you may want to start looking expectantly to see what he's doing for you. What you pray for may not be how God responds but that does not mean he is not responding. God is full of holy surprises about how and when he answers your prayers. So, pray for what you need and expect an answer – but keep looking around because his answers do not always come the way you might expect.

For example, it is highly probable that Joseph prayed to God to get him out of prison, (Genesis 39:20). Did God answer his prayer? After all, he was wrongly accused and spent at least two years in an Egyptian prison. But Joseph never gave up on God and God never gave up on Joseph. After those two years, Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream and was promoted to second in command in Egypt. Joseph went from being destitute in a prison, the worst of circumstances, to being second in command. Wow! So, what are you worried about? God ALWAYS finds a way forward even when things look bad. And it would be a good guess to say that Joseph probably had no idea that interpreting a dream for the ruler of Egypt would be how he would finally get out of prison – and get a terrific new job.

- *Genesis 41:40 (NLT) - You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."*

So, it is with you. God WILL meet your needs, but you can't give up on him when it doesn't look good, or things don't happen the way you think they should, or things look bleak or there is not enough money or not enough time or even when you wonder how you'll get through. God knows what he's doing, and he knows how to meet your needs better than you might expect. God is filled with holy surprises and he is more engaged in your life than you can imagine. He knows your potential and he wants to work with you to do great things for his glory.

- *Psalms 37:4 (ESV) - Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

As God's leader, you are to set the pace to pray for yourself and others. Pray for your needs and the needs of others who work with or for you. Pray for the needs of your business and for the people who will buy your products or enjoy your services. Pray for your business needs and other Christians in your line of work. And pray to build or do something worthy of God's investment in you. God put Christ in you for a reason. He is always looking for his ROI.

- *Ephesians 1:18 (NLT) - I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.*
- *2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT) - For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.*

God WILL supply your needs when you keep moving in his direction, no matter the circumstances of life and no matter what others may have. God WILL supply your needs to do something great for him. Now is the time to work toward his purpose and his glory. God wants to supply all your needs, and you can take that to the eternal bank.