



# God the provider

## Matthew 6:24-34

**Genesis 22:1-14; Joshua 1:1-9; Psalm 23; Luke 15:3-7; John 3:1-7; 10:1-15.**

If God is our Provider, faith in Him is essential. Therefore, people who worry or fret are insulting God.

Worry, or lack of faith in God, is a form of disbelief - it gets near to atheism.

In 1 Peter 5:7 we are told to ***“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”*** We are to throw our whole weight upon Him.

It does not mean that we are to be lazy and not work. Matthew shows us that our lives have to be most zealous.

***But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33***

It's a question of priorities. The priority of putting God first will give us tremendous blessing and will keep us fully occupied. Your circumstances do not measure your peace, but your peace measures your circumstances.

The burden you have to bear does not become less heavy when you become a committed Christian, but you are given new strength to bear it. The way is no less dark but you have a new vision with which to see the way you are to go.

Psalm 23: 1 says, ***“I shall not be in want”***. Here we have the Lord as our Shepherd. Being our Shepherd, He will see to it that we lack nothing as the rest of the Psalm tells us. Look at the Shepherd stories in Luke 15 and John 10 and use them as material for this topic.

Read Genesis 22:1-14. In verse 14 Abram called the place Jehovah Jireh (AV Bible) – ‘the Lord will provide’. Down through the ages, God's people have used it as one of their names for Him. Study this incident and see the thrilling meaning of it; note especially what it says in verse 8, ***“God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”***

This is a glorious theme. God did provide the lamb to take the place of the guilty sinner when the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, gave His life for us on Calvary's cross. John the Baptist was the first to call Christ the ***“Lamb of God”***.

***The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29***

Yes, God provides physically and materially for our life on this earth. This is wonderful, but far more wonderful is the fact that He has provided for us spiritually. We can live forever in His glorious love in heaven, if we will avail ourselves of His provision.

***But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Luke 12:31***

This is fully explained in John 3:1-7. In verse 3 our Lord began His discussion with Nicodemus with something that was familiar, ***“I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”***

The word translated ***“again”*** also means ‘from above’. To be ***“born again”*** means to be ‘born of the Spirit’.

All human beings have experienced natural birth on earth. If they expect to go to heaven, they must experience a supernatural spiritual birth from above. Nicodemus was a well educated religious leader but he didn’t understand what the Saviour was talking about! Jesus was speaking about a spiritual birth, but Nicodemus thought only of a physical birth.

The situation is no different today. People think they can get to heaven through:

- their family's religious heritage,
- their church membership,
- religious ceremonies and so on.

There is only one way to obtain salvation and that is by grace, and God is the provider.

***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no-one can boast. Ephes. 2:8-9***

Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ provided for our eternal salvation when He died on the cross of Calvary and rose again from the dead. Hallelujah! - what a provider!

## Discussion

Psalm 23: 1 says, ***“I shall not be in want”***. Expound this theme - How did God provide? Encourage personal testimony from the members.

Comment on the relevance of 1 Peter 5:7 today. Does it mean that we do not have to make any provision for ourselves?