

## **GOD PROVIDES FOR WHATEVER HE REQUIRES**

**By: Austin Pryor**

When God planned for Abraham to be the "father of many nations," the Bible says that He miraculously provided a son for Abraham – Isaac. Then, when God commanded Abraham to offer his only son as a sacrifice, He provided a substitute that He found acceptable in Isaac's place. Abraham called the place of this event as "Jehovah Jireh," which means, "God will provide" (Genesis 22:13-14).

The life of Abraham is a striking example of a basic truth that my wife, Susie, and I learned many years ago. It has greatly encouraged us in our daily lives and the choices we make. The truth is this: God can absolutely be trusted to provide all the means necessary for us to obey His commands and carry out His plans. In other words, He knows exactly what resources we need to follow His will, and He *always* makes them available.

Searching through the Bible for other instances of this aspect of God's generosity is both interesting and also faith-strengthening. Here are a few examples: When God planned for the children of Israel to go into Egypt, He sent Joseph ahead in order to provide for them (Genesis 50:19-21). When God planned for the children of Israel to come out of Egypt, He sent Moses to provide the way. When Moses said he wouldn't know what to say, God provided Aaron to serve as the spokesman (Exodus 3:7-4:17). And when God required that a temple be built in His honor, He provided the means for building it (1 Chronicles 29:14-16).

Susie and I refer to this principle as "whatever God requires, He provides." As I think of what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ, I remember the principle described in Hebrews 1:3: *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."* When God's righteousness required purification for our sins, He provided Christ as our Savior.

God continues, to this very day, providing each of us with the very best – Himself. He lives in His people, through His Spirit, strengthening and empowering us to obey His commands. That's why God's requirement that we "be holy as He is holy" is completely reasonable. Consider the following:

- *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3).*
- *"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).*
- *"For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).*

Whether it is the necessary strength and resources to get through each day, the wisdom to make right decisions, or the insight needed when the direction we should follow – at work, in our homes or other areas of our lives – we can turn to God in full confidence. Learn to rely on His strength, being mindful and thankful that whatever God requires, He provides.

*"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21).*

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#### Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. In the Bible, one of the names God uses for Himself is "God will provide." On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being low and 10 being high, how easy is it for you to trust in God to provide for your needs – especially challenging ones?
2. Looking at this topic in a slightly different way, how often do you think of God as your provider? Do you even think that it is He that provides for what you need – or do you typically presume it is your responsibility to determine where to find or obtain what you need for a specific situation?
3. Which – if any – of the Bible passages cited seems most meaningful or significant to you?
4. What difference would it make if you were to begin each day, and continue through each day, truly relying on God to provide for what you need, regardless of how complex those needs might be?

*NOTE: If you have a Bible and would like to review some other passages that relate to this topic, consider the following verses:*

Matthew 6:25-34; Mark 6:30-44; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9; Philippians 4:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24