

September 24, 2023

SUPERNATURAL - Part 4: Supernatural Provision

Q: How many of you have ever been in need of Supernatural Provision?

- o I sure have!

Q: How many of you have ever experienced Supernatural Provision?

- o I have also!!

I've been in great need, and I've seen God supernaturally provide for our needs.

IT WAS CHALLENGING Financially, when we were just starting out as a young married couple:

- We had very little except for very big STUDENT LOANS
- We rented a bare apartment... I mean bare. We had no furniture. Our first purchase was a bed!
- We had one 14 year old car between us, a 69 VW square back! Remember those?
- God provided work for both of us and Gina rode her bike to work.
- At first I was excited to get bills in the mail. Because we could pay them!
- Then we had children....
- We went back to one income....
- Bills weren't quite as fun anymore!

BUT WE SANG THIS SONG.... (SONG CLIP) *"Even though we ain't got money, I'm so in love with you honey..."*

Can any of you relate to that either now or some time back?

In spite of all of that, how many of you believe that God will meet all of your needs?
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I'm hoping to encourage you today.

The Bible is filled with stories about people with needs, and how God met those needs. I'm on the last stretch of a 100 day reading plan...called "Torah" on the first 5 books of the Bible. It's filled with **SUPERNATURAL PROVISION:**

- **Manna**,
- **Water** gushing from a ROCK at God's command through Moses! quail. But wait there's more!
- **QUAIL:** that fed approximately 2 million people for a month.
- **CHECK OUT THIS WEIRD ONE...**

Deuteronomy 29:5 (NIV) Yet the Lord says, “During the forty years that I led you through the wilderness, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet.

Back in the early years... I counted on this from God for the old cars we drove!!

Philippians 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Please notice what this does NOT say: God does not say he will meet all of your WANTS. God will meet all of your needs.

Most of us already know there is a difference between what we WANT and what we NEED. If you are still paying off your credit card debt from Christmas 2021, it isn't because God didn't provide for your needs. It's because you made purchases according to your WANTS not according to your NEEDS.

One of our core statements around here is “**Do FIRST things FIRST.**” The Bible has much to say about doing first things first **FINANCIALLY.**

So, with that are we ready to dive in and be encouraged! Are you ready to be encouraged?

I. When God GUIDES, He always PROVIDES

Isaiah 58:11 (NIV) The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

This passage explains God's promise to provide for the FAITHFUL REMNANT who continue to trust him! It was hard in exile. But God would pull them through... through the exile, through the scorching heat, even in a sun scorched land, he would provide SUPERNATURALLY for their needs. When everything is barren all around you, that is no barrier to God.

When God GUIDES, He always PROVIDES.

- He isn't providing according to your **dreams**, or according to your **ambitions**.
- He provides you with everything you need to honor him according to his purposes for your life.
- **If you are part of the FAITHFUL REMNANT who seek and honor him FIRST, you will see him do this.**

II. God MULTIPLIES what you GIVE

2 Corinthians 9:10 (NIV) Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

The context here is that Paul was collecting an offering for Judea from the Gentile churches he started. **The context of need in Judea was a combination of factors, including economic hardship, famine, and persecution.**

Paul was explaining how God responds to when we are GENEROUS.

He gives **MORE SEED**, and **MORE SUPPLY**, and **MORE HARVEST**, not just financially, but also a greater harvest of righteousness!

Paul is describing in this context how God's provision works. Paul is in complete agreement with the words of Jesus.

Luke 6:38 (NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

This principle goes all the way back to the **TITHE principle**. **What is a tithe?** It's giving the first 10% of your income to God's Kingdom work. "Tithe" means "tenth".

Jesus affirmed the tithe principle. This principle is in the background of this statement which occurs in a financial context.

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

Jesus taught to **"Do first things first"** (One of VVCC's core statements) because it is the remedy for financial anxiety.

The Jews listening would have understood this in terms of honoring God with the "Tithe" first, and how God would bless them by giving them "all these things" they were worrying about as well.

The prophet Malachi was very clear about this and his entire audience was very familiar with his teaching as well.

The "Talk It Over" small group questions get into this a bit more. If you feel a little uncomfortable with the subject of giving, I highly recommend that you take a look at these passages from the Bible and the questions to ponder.

GIVING is an act of faith that honors God by doing first things first. Why do I tell you this in a message about Supernatural Provision? Because...

III. Your **GENEROSITY** impacts God's provision to you and **OTHERS**

VIDEO CELEBRATION STORY

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV) You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Does God really need your GIVING? Laughably, no. Everything is already his.

Give and it will be given! You can't outgive God. God knows how to teach you the blessing of being a generous person.

NEXT STEPS: God said, "*Test me on this*" (Malachi 3:10). Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:38). Give using the "Do first things first" method, and start a log: Write down how God provides. You will have stories to tell of **SUPERNATURAL PROVISION.**

Thank you for coming today. I hope you have been encouraged.

We start a new series next week called "MISSING PEACE". This series will help us discover **PEACE** and specific help for **Anxiety, Depression, Worry, Negative Thinking, Trauma, or Burnout.**

Talk It Over

SMALL TALK

1. Share a story about when you witnessed God's provision in your life or the life of someone you know. What did you learn?

VIEWPOINT

2. **Read Malachi 3:8-12.** What are the key principles regarding provision and blessings in this passage?
3. **Read Matthew 6:19-20, 24-34.** According to Jesus, how does prioritizing God's kingdom with your money serve as a remedy for financial anxiety? Why is it important to **"do first things first"** financially? What's "first"? (Matthew 6:33)
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.** How does Paul here reinforce the idea of God's provision in response to our giving? How does generosity impact God's provision and our ability to be generous?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. What kind of heart blockages can disrupt the "tithe" first principle, the "seeking God's Kingdom first" priority, and the blessed to be a blessing lifestyle? Do you need to make any adjustments? What kind?

MAKING PROGRESS (THIS WEEK)

Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you." (Luke 6:38) Give using the "Do first things first" method, and start a log: Write down how God provides.