

PHILIPPIANS—WEEK 10

Finding Security in God's Power and Provision: Philippians 4:10-23

The church in Philippi was dedicated to Paul and to meeting his needs. God used Paul to transform the lives of these saints, watching God visit them and move in their lives in vivid ways. Paul was a spiritual father to them—an earthly representation of their heavenly Father. The Philippian church was committed to providing for Paul in the same way that God is committed to providing for us.

When God works in us through the power of His love, we are never the same—we are permanently changed. Thanks be to God! He becomes our Father and we become His children. He is a good, good Father, and good fathers provide for their children. In his limitless power, He is able to supply abundantly above all we can ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20). The phrase in this verse “abundantly above” profoundly expresses God's love and commitment to us. Sometimes, in our minds, that supply seems to come a bit late, but God's timing is always perfect.

Why do we worry so much about our needs—sometimes to the point of being frantic? It is related to our level of faith and trust in God and our understanding of His unconditional love and provision. The word “provide” is not limited to financial provision, though that is the emphasis in this passage. It includes mental and physical wellbeing. No matter what circumstances we face, we can trust in God's power and provision. And like Paul we can learn to be content and embrace verse 11 in this passage—we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY about everything. This verse from Phil. 4:6 certainly hones our focus! It should be tattooed on our forehead, so that every time we look in the mirror we remember God's great love and care for us. Look to God's unconditional love for you, His strength and empowerment in times of anxiety. Worry can provoke us to make wrong decisions. Praying in faith will lead us to right decisions with good results. This isn't all about financial provision. There are so many areas in which we need spiritual provision...love, joy, kindness, peace, self-control, patience, goodness, meekness, faith.

Some trust in wealth and boast in riches—what do you and I trust in and boast in? Though we live in the natural realm, let us keep our eyes on the eternal and on our Heavenly Father. And remember, the grace of the Lord Jesus is with your spirit.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are two primary needs in your life that cause you to worry? How can you stop worrying?
- 2) What keeps you from being content in every situation...from trusting and knowing that your Heavenly Father will provide for you?
- 3) How do we focus on God's power and provision?