

CHRISTIAN HEADS, HEARTS, AND HANDS

ARTICLES TO FORM US AS FOLLOWERS OF "THE WAY"

Will God Provide for Your Needs?

by Garrett Kell

Will God provide what we need? This is a question that we all wrestle with, sometimes unceasingly. To encourage us to trust the God who always cares for His children, let's briefly consider the story of Elijah and the ravens.

1 Kings 17:1-7 "Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word." **2** Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: **3** "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. **4** You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." **5** So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. **6** The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. **7** Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land."

Why did God do this to Elijah? Because Elijah was not just a prophet or a preacher or a famous guy who made it into the Bible. Elijah was the Lord's child. And God always cares for His children. Always.

And this is what the Lord taught Elijah each day that He fulfilled His promise to him. Listen again to **17:6** "the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook."

Every morning and every evening, as faithful as the rising and setting of the sun, God ordered His winged servants to come to the aid of this man on whom the Lord has set His affection. Every morning and every evening, God supplied Elijah with food along with a freshly flowing brook of cold water to quench his thirst.

As God's children, we too can have great confidence that the Lord will care for our needs. Let's reflect on a few truths that will encourage us to trust our Lord's faithful provision.

1. Rest in God's Promises.

The Lord won't always care for you in the same way He cares for others and He won't always care for you in way He has in the past. But He will care for you—because He promised that He will.

In **Philippians 4:19** Paul reminded us that "God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." And in **Matthew 6:25-34** Jesus told us to "look at the birds of the air. They neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?...Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you."

2. Remember God's Past Faithfulness.

I don't think it's insignificant that God taught Elijah this lesson of trust early in his ministry. I wonder how often he thought back to his days with the ravens and was encouraged to trust God once again. How has God provided for you in the past? How has He shown His faithfulness in days gone by? Have you considered them recently?

Philippians 4:6-7 says "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This lesson is essential for us because there will certainly be days when God's provisions will appear to cease. Elijah experienced that when the "brook dried up" (v7). God doesn't train His children to trust Him in just one situation. He often changes our circumstances to teach us to trust Him in new ways.

So when you face the uncertainties of tomorrow, call your heart to rest in the memories of God's faithfulness in days gone by. He has been faithful and will be faithful again. Spend time today writing down ways He has been faithful to you. Mark those moments and then share them with others. Ask others to share their own remembrances of God's faithfulness with you. Encourage one another to remember that our God is always faithful.

3. Be Ready for God's Peculiar Provisions.

It may also be good for us to notice that God's provision often comes in peculiar ways. God made Elijah homeless in a gorge with a bunch of buzzards bringing him scraps from who knows where. That is weird.

Why did God send him to a ditch with a stream rather than to the mighty Jordan River with its deep and abundant waters? And why the birds? And not just any birds, but unclean scavengers? That's the last way Elijah, a Jewish prophet, would have suspected provision to come. But isn't that like our God? He often puts His people in peculiar situations so He can be glorified in His peculiar supply. Elijah never missed a meal in the valley. And through that peculiar provision God taught His servant that He would care for him, just like He promised He would. So, when you feel hemmed in and you see no way that what your need will be provided; remember that our God is a God who keeps His promises, even if He does it in peculiar ways.

4. Rejoice in God's Present Provision.

In your current struggle, be careful to not overlook the table that the Lord has already set before you. Has He given you provision today? Do not push His plate of grace aside to make room for worry about the future. As Jesus said in **Matthew 6:34**, "Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Are you rejoicing in Him for the provision He has given today? Or are you fixated on what you fear you will lack tomorrow? God may not always give us everything we want, but He always gives us everything we need. He promises daily bread, not daily bounty. It is very true that He often gives both, but there are seasons we are called to travel through the valley before we enter the green pasture.