**God’s Plan**

**Part 2**

**God Can Afford It!**

**Philippians 4:19**

**Philippians 4:19: “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”**

There’s an anti-prosperity teaching attitude in the church today, and yet most of the people with that attitude want to prosper. There are many reasons this attitude is so prevalent.

* People don’t know the Scriptures.
* People have heard extreme teaching that’s caused them to react.
* People have been raised on traditions of men and not the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing God’s Word, and faith for prosperity comes by hearing teaching on prosperity. We need to know what Scripture says about it.

What is prosperity?

The Greek word for prosperity actually means “to be led along a good road.” Do you remember last weeks confession? **God’s plan is to lead you along a good road that will prosper you in every area of your life – spiritually, emotionally, physically, and financially.**

During this teaching series, I’ll be focusing on financial prosperity, not because it’s the most important, but because it’s the least accepted and most misunderstood area of prosperity.

God has a plan for your money and if you don’t know that plan then a major part of your everyday living isn’t under His control.

Financial stress can affect your marriage, your family, and your health. Stress and lack aren’t God’s plan for you. His plan is for you to prosper. If you aren’t handling your finances in line with God’s plan, then your whole life will be out of joint.

“Can we afford it?” This has become an increasingly common question. For some people the focus is on issues like, “Can we afford the family vacation this year?” or “Will we be able to keep the kids in private school?” For others the belt tightening is more severe, with concerns like, “Will the car get repossessed?” or “How will we pay the light bill?”

We’re all aware that we live in a world of limited resources, and lack is never far away. With so much anxiety in the culture, it’s easy to focus on limitation and lack from the fearful perspective of an orphan heart. Believers, however, see their situation, whatever it is, through Father God’s abundance to them as His children.

Last weekend I made this statement: As God’s children, we need to stop grieving the Father’s heart and start

receiving everything He desires to bestow upon us. For this to happen we need two things:

* A shift in our prosperity paradigm.
* A revelation of God’s plan for prosperity in our lives.

Unfortunately, many people have a hard time believing that God is good, that He loves them, and that He wants them to prosper. There are various reasons for this, but a major one is that many people have an orphan mentality that makes it difficult for them to receive good things from God. They need a deep inner transformation that can only occur as their heart changes and they become more aware of their identity as God’s children.

* The good news Jesus revealed and Paul preached declares – you aren’t alone and your heavenly father cares about every detail of your life.
* The bad news of the orphaned life says – you’re on your own and nobody cares.

Consider the contrast of these two identities this way:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Children of God/The Spirit of Sonship** | **Orphans/The Orphan Spirit** |
| Secure | Insecure |
| Trusting | Mistrustful |
| Relationship-oriented | Performance-oriented |
|  |  |
| Transparent | Ashamed |
| Supply-oriented | Demand-oriented |
| Self-accepting | Self-rejecting |
| God-centered | Self-centered |
| Practices dominion | Practices manipulation |
| Faith-based | Fear-based |
| Work creatively | Toil in bondage |
| Live with purpose & destiny | Live with conflicting passions |
| Have a sense of belonging | Have a sense of alienation |
| Are blessed-conscious | Are cursed-conscious |
| Contributors/Givers | Consumers/Takers |

Think about it. Which category do you fall into?

As children of God, we’ve been given a wonderful promise, our theme text. Again,

**Philippians 4:19: “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”**

Here God reminds us that we aren’t to allow fear to distort our focus so that we see only our limitation and lack; we’re to trust in the unending abundance of God’s provision. Our Father God has a limitless supply, and He definitely can afford it!

GOD CAN AFFORD IT!

The promise is short, simple and direct, but it’s one of the most amazing, all-encompassing promises in the Bible. Today, I want us to see God’s guarantee regarding our finances. Because many Christians are so familiar with it, it’s easy to overlook the depth of meaning it contains. This promise is packed with rich assurance, so let’s unpack it.

\* “And ***my*** *God*…” Notice it doesn’t say, “And *his* God” or “*Her* God” or “*Their* God.” It says, “My God.” It’s personal, intimate, and relational. Jesus died so we could have a personal relationship with Father God, not a bunch of rules and regulations we're forced to follow. When we have a deep, personal relationship with God through Christ, life gets exciting! We don’t have to live the orphaned life, struggling on our own, feeling like nobody cares. He’s our Father! We’re His children! We can say, “My God.”

\* “And my ***God will***.” It doesn’t say, “He might meet your needs.” The Word says, “He will.” This is a fact, an absolute guarantee. God’s staking His character and reputation on it. We know that all of God’s words are true words, and we can stake everything we have and are on what He tells us. There’s no fine print here, no “escape clause.” Father God is simply telling us what He’s willing to do.

\* “And my **God will *meet all*…**” It doesn’t say, “I’ll meet some of your needs.” The promise says all your needs. Would that include your car payment? Education expenses? Braces for your kids? Your house mortgage? Taxes? Tithe and Kingdom Builder giving? Yes! He’s interested in and wants to meet all of these needs.

\* “And my **God will meet all your *needs*…**” Needs, not greeds. What about the new jet skis you’ve been drooling over, or that plastic surgery you’ve been secretly coveting? God never promises that He’ll supply our every whim. There’s a difference between needs, which are necessities, and wants, which can be greeds. Think for a moment. As a parent, do you give your children everything they ask for and want? I doubt that you do, and I certainly hope that you don’t, because you’ll spoil them rotten. Our heavenly Father is a good parent. He’s not going to give us everything we want, but will supply all our legitimate needs.

\* “And my **God will meet all your needs *according to his glorious riches*…**” This promise isn’t based on my assets, thank God! It’s based on what God has, and His resources are unlimited. There’s never a recession or shortage in heaven! However, God knows that we frequently get shortsighted, so He often reminds us in Scripture about who He is and what He has.

**Haggai 2:8: “‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty.”**

Actually, He wants us to understand that not just the silver and the gold, but everything belongs to Him.

**Psalm 50:10, 12: “Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills…the world is mine, and all that is in it.”**

We’ll never have a need that can exhaust God’s supply.

**GRACE OVER-SUPPLIES YOUR NEED!**

\* “**And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches *in Christ Jesus*.**” It’s very important that we pay attention to these three little words, in Christ Jesus. God’s directing His statement to a certain group of people. This is a promise only for believers, not a promise for everyone. It’s for those who are in Christ Jesus. In other words, God’s saying, “If you’re one of My children, in My family, I promise to meet all your needs.” God isn’t an absentee father! He always takes care of His kids, those who receive and trust Him.

**Psalm 37:25: “I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.”**

Paul’s words in Philippians 4:19 make it clear that God is both willing and abundantly able to provide everything we need. He can definitely afford it, and He wants to do it. That’s great, you may be thinking, *so why do I still have so many financial needs? Is God ignoring me, or has He changed His mind, or has He forgotten about my family and me? Maybe this only refers to spiritual needs, not my material or financial needs.* When we get discouraged, thoughts like this plague us. We must remember what God is like, even when we’re tempted to think otherwise. Our heavenly Father is changeless, totally trustworthy, and He keeps His covenants with us.

Make no mistake about it God is good! He’s a lover and a generous giver. He sacrificed His only Son, Jesus, to reconcile us back into right relationship with Himself. He tells us in

**Romans 8:32: “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”**

If God was willing, out of His love, to give the supreme sacrifice of His Son to redeem us, would He withhold anything else to meet our other needs when He can so easily supply them?

Then why aren’t all of our needs met? We know that the financial principles that God’s laid out in His word are eternally true. Like Him, they’re changeless, powerful and totally effective. God’s done everything on His end to provide for all our needs.

**2 Peter 1:3: “His divine power has given us everything we need…”**

If we’re to receive anything from Him, we must open our hearts to believe and receive all the good things our Father has for us.

Let’s close by looking at what’s been called **The Power Twins: Believing and Receiving.**

Today, I want to quickly teach you how to receive from God.

**BELIEVING:**

Faith is a trusting relationship with a good heavenly Father; but due to our early experiences with our earthly parents, many of us act like spiritual orphans. Even when we want to, it’s difficult for us to trust in God’s goodness. In His sermon on the Mount, Jesus reassures us repeatedly about God’s goodness and trustworthiness. He tells us to look at the birds. They don’t spend time worrying about where their next meal will come from, for God supplies what they will need. Jesus asks us to consider that if God takes care of the birds, don’t we think He’ll take care of us if we trust Him? Of course the logical answer to this is yes.

Belief, however, is more than mental assent regarding facts. When God tells us to believe Him, He’s insisting that we place our confidence and total trust upon Him. This means we rest. Rest is the flavor of faith. We rely on Him, not merely that we give credence to his words. We need to realize that our degree of trust in our heavenly Father reflects our relationship with Him. The more intimately we know Him, the more deeply we’ll trust Him.

One measure of our trust in God is how frequently we worry. Actually, worry is a form of atheism. Every time we worry, we’re acting like atheists. In effect, we’re saying, “If it’s to be, it’s up to me.” We may say we believe in God and His ability to provide, but in the final analysis our actions demonstrate that we’re still depending on our own efforts and resources to carry us through difficult situations. We must always remind ourselves that our security isn’t our bank or savings account, our investments or any other resource, no matter how much we have. ***Our only true security is in our heavenly Father.*** We need to avoid the subtle atheism that tells us we must take care of ourselves.

**Belief always involves action.**

**RECEIVING:**

This is where receiving comes in. Many people have the mistaken idea that receiving is the passive action of waiting for something to appear. Actually, receiving is the active response to believing. When we receive, we ask and give thanks, then take and obtain what we’ve requested. One definition of “receive” is to look for, take in full, give space to and make room for. This means we’re actively involved.

Consider three steps to receiving from God:

**1. Actively ask.**

**Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, 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 comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

**James 4:2: “You do not have because you do not ask.”**

**John 16:24: “Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.”**

**2. Make your request specific.**

**3. Give thanks.**

**Hebrews 8:10–12: “This is the covenant I will establish…declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”**