

GOOD DAY TO YOU---This is a devotional coming to you from the Railroad Evangelistic Association (REA): As National Chaplain, I present to you a few minutes of discussion and understanding on what GOD PROVIDES US---AND HOW OUR SPIRITUAL FAITH IS SO IMPORTANT----knowing that...

“WITH FAITH, GOD IS WELL PLEASED WITH US—HE LOVES US!!!!”

SO let us begin----with thanks to the Father who provides for us....AMEN...

GOD PROVIDES and PROTECTS, GIVES US PASSION and PARDON and PURPOSE, PRESENCE and ALSO GREAT PLEASURE (JOY) IN LIFE

- **FIRST---- GOD PROVIDES** for us and always has----and always will.

GOD DOES PROVIDE ..and we see this in Bible scripture: we will base this discussion from Philippians: CHAPTER 4.

In this Epistle, written and found in the New Testament is attributed to Paul the Apostle and a co-author named Timothy, and is addressed to the Christian church in Philippi.^[Phil 1:1] Paul and Silas first visited Philippi in Greece during Paul's second missionary journey, which occurred between *approximately* 49 and 51 AD

Chapter 4 Paul expresses his gratitude for the gifts that the Philippians had sent him, and assures them that God will reward them—provide for them--- for their generosity.

PHILLIPIANS 4:19 WE READ IN TWO TEXT TRANSLATIONS:

Philippians 4:19, KJV: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." ...

Philippians 4:19, NLT: "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

LET’S HAVE AGREEMENT THAT GOD PROVIDES OUR NEEDS; AND—Brothers and Sisters----WE NEED GOD. THAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE...

- **GOD MEETS OUR PHYSICAL NEEDS----food, shelter, home, health---all to enable our Physical Abilities and**
- **GOD ALSO MEETS OUR INWARD NEEDS (Mental Stability, Emotional needs/stability, and good attitudes—ALL FOR OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS.**

HOW DOES GOD PROVIDE?? HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF:-

HE PROVIDES FOR US IN MANY WAYS: .

- **PASSION (LOVE):**

HE GIVES US PASSION TO DO RIGHT and ALSO TO HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. ONLY GOD CAN PROVIDE THIS UNIVERSAL AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE---- ACCORDING TO THIS SCRIPTURE: “MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEED— ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY, BY CHRIST JESUS. THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT GOD IS LOVE. HE GIVES US PASSIONATE LOVE.

1 JOHN 4:16----¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Brothers and Sisters: WE HAVE A GOD THAT IS REALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT US---- AND WE NEED THAT LOVE. AGAIN- VERSE 19: WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.

JOHN 3:16 FAMOUS SCRIPTURE: FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD—THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON----THAT WHOSOEVER---ANYONE—THAT BELIEVETH ON HIM, SHALL NOT PERISH, BUT SHALL HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE!

➤ **PARDON:**

WE HAVE A GOD WHO PROVIDES PARDON—WHY DO WE NEED PARDON? WHY DO WE NEED FORGIVENESS-----??? FOR PEACE AND WELL BEING! THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!!

Romans 3:23, NLT: "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23, CSB: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD—WE NEED A PARDON.

EPHESIANS 2:8 FOR BY GRACE ARE YOU SAVED!!!! AND NOT OF YOURSELVES—IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD....SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH. FAITH IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST/THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

Romans 5: 1 5-1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^{1a} have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

THEREFORE, BEING JUSTIFIED (PARDONED) BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD, THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. THEREFORE, BY FAITH, AND REPENTANCE----WE ARE FORGIVEN!

ACTS 20: GET PARDONED—REPENT!!! THE LORD IS NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH....PAUL SAYS THAT REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD AND FAITH TOWARD OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! GOD WILL OFFER US A PARDON//FORGIVENESS.

JESUS IS QUOTED—IN LUKE 6:37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned

LUKE 15;7 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Our CHURCHES---ALL OF THEM—SHOULD BE NAMED: HOUSE OF PARDON! WE ALL MUST BE IN MINSITRY TO HELP OTHERS AND TO SHOW CHRISTIANITY IS DEFINED BY PARDON—WE ARE THE ONLY RELIGION THAT DOES THAT---WE ARE BASED ON FORGIVENESS----OURS IS ONE THAT OFFERS PARDON OF OUR SINS---FROM CHRIST----

➤ **PURPOSE:**

WE ALSO NEED PURPOSE—A REASON TO LIVE---I ASK YOU---BROTHERS AND SISTERS----WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE? THE SCRIPTURES GIVE US CLEAR GUIDANCE:

MARK 8:36: FOR WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOLE? HAVE A PURPOSE----AND A PLAN—AND FOLLOW THE PLAN TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE!!

PHILLIPIANS CH 1: 21 FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST—THE REASON TO LIVE/BREATHE/TO TAKE UP SPACE----IS CHRIST!!! SO, WHY ARE WE REALLY HERE:TO FIND CHRIST AND THEN TO DO HIS WILL. HE HAS A BLUEPRINT FOR US---IN HIS WILL FOR US/FOR OUR LIVES. NEVER DOUBT THAT!!!! TO BRING HIM GLORY AND TO HELP TAKE THIS MESSAGE TO OTHERS. IT IS OUR PURPOSE. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS FULL OF SUBSTANCE! TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS AND THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM-----

- **PRESENCE:** HE PROVIDES US HIS PRESENCE----FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, Romans 8:9 YOU ARE NOT IN THE FLESH BUT IN THE SPIRIT! THE SPIRIT OF GOD WILL DWELL IN YOU. HE MADE US IN HIS IMAGE---BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT. THAT IS THE WAY GOD IS---HE IS GOD. HE IS GOOD AND HE IS PRESENT IN US.

2 Timothy 1:14 Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep

My word; and My Father will love him, and We GOD THE FATHER AND the SPIRIT will come to him and make Our dwell with him.

GOD CAME IN TO US.....AND RESIDES IN US—WHY DOES HE DO THAT????

HE DOES RESIDE IN US—AND WE NEED TO KNOW THAT AND TO BE CLOSE TO GOD—AS HE WANTS TO BE CLOSE TO US...AND—BROTHERS AND SISTERS----WE DON'T WANT TO BE WITHOUT GOD'S PRESENCE. THE PRESENCE OF GOD—THIS PRESENCE GIVES YOU CONFIDENCE, GIVES YOU UNCONDITIONAL CARE FOR OTHERS, GRACIOUSNESS, LOVE, COMPASSION, AND-----ENERGY AND REINFORCES PURPOSE. WITH HIS PRESENCE, WE HAVE GREAT BENEFITS! WE HAVE AN ETERNAL RETIREMENT PLAN! IT NEVER RUNS OUT—YOU DON'T NEED AN ACCOUTANT TO CHART THE BALACE, IT NEVERS ENDS---IT IS ETERNAL.

- **POWER: WE NEED GOD'S POWER..** GOD GIVES US POWER. GOD PROVIDES US ALL WE NEED—HE IS SO POWERFUL.....THE GREATEST POWER IS THE POWER OF GOD—THE POWER TO BE DESIRED---THE POWER TO ANSWER PRAYER/THE POWER OVER SIN/TO ANSWER THE GREAT COMMISION

JOHN 1:12-----AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GOD GAVE POWER---TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD! WOW---THAT SHOULD BE WHAT WE WANT----

PHIL 4: WE ARE LIMITED----GOD IS UNLIMITED

MATT 19: WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

- **FINALLY, ----PLEASURE:** BLESSINGS/ARE PURE GOOD PLEASURE!!!! THIS IS A WONDERFUL GIFT---OF DAILY HAPPINESS—JOY AND PLEASURE TO LIVE EACH DAY---SERVING THE LORD---GOD GIVES US CREATIVITY---MUSIC AND ARTS, EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, EYES TO SEE, TASTE TO ENJOY, ABUNDANT FOODS, LOVE AND FAMILY, ALL TOWARD PERFECTION-HEAVEN

ISAIAH 35:10 Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return that way. They will enter Zion with a happy shout. Unending joy will crown them, PLEASURE/HAPPINESS and JOY will overwhelm them; grief and suffering will disappear.

WE SEE THIS REINFORCED IN THE SCRIPTURES” PSALM 23: HE IS.....THE GREAT I AM: YOU FILL IN THE BLANK: HE IS -----

THE BREAD OF LIFE,

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE,

THE ILLUMINATION,

THE GREAT I AM-----

THE LORD, MY SHEPARD---I SHALL NOT WANT!!!! GOD WILL PROVIDE....THIS IS OUR HAPPINESS & OUR PLEASURE TO KNOW THAT GOD SEES TO OUR NEEDS. AMEN

In closing this discussion, we can draw a few important conclusions about the nature of faith. I pray that this brief discussion with you—helps you understand FAITH better...

- **Faith is not a feeling--- but a conscious choice to believe what God has said.**We will never make progress in the spiritual life if we don't go past our fears and personal feelings. Remember Noah? If he had waited until he “felt like” building an ark, he might never have laid the first piece of wood. And if Joshua had waited to “feel like” marching around Jericho, those walls might still be standing. **Feelings are important but they are not the basis of true faith.** When you are in a hospital waiting room while a loved one is in surgery, you may or may not feel positive. In that moment, you must consciously choose to believe that God is who He said He is, and that He will do what He said He would do. And you'll have to make that choice many times a day. **Faith chooses, then acts, and then the feelings follow.**
- **Faith acts even in the face of doubt and opposition.** If we wait until all the circumstances are in our favor, we'll probably wait forever. Remember--David didn't wait---for something to happen to Goliath. He trusted God and walked down into the valley to face the giant. If we wait for our doubts to disappear, we'll have to wait a long time. Sooner or later, we must “act on our FAITH.” Abraham did. Moses did. Samuel did. All the Bible heroes “acted on FAITH.” You can too.
- **Faith is Godly.** We need to know that faith is something God wants us to have and to use. It is what God allows us to have through His Grace and to have it with us all the time as we face challenges and decisions. Faith makes us strong and we must be strong in faith!

Thank you for your attention as we discussed SPIRITUAL Faith and what GOD PROVIDES US. Questions---or comments--- send me an email or Face Book text...railhopeamerica@gmail.com or post on Facebook page at RailHopeAmerica.com

Closing Prayer: I ask now that God keeps you safe and healthy and provides to you every blessing and brings you great Passion to serve HIM to show HIS POWER in our life and HOLY PRESENCE within us. WE THANK YOU LORD FOR PROVIDING FOR US AND PARDON TO OUR SHORTCOMINGS---and to know that we have your blessings of PLEASURE IN OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WITH OUR FELLOWSHIP---ALL IN JESUS---WE PRAY.