

Fil-Am Community Church

Pastor David Bennett

9 June 2013

Key Verse: Philippians 4:19

No More Fear - Part 4 of 10

“YOUR FINANCES AND GOD'S PROVISION”

Good Morning Fil-Am we are continuing this morning on our series “No More Fears” and we are going to deal with another aspect of fear.

If we were to take a survey today of what is your greatest fears, I would venture to say that one area will make everyone's top ten lists are financial fears. With today's economy, sequestration, furloughs, layoffs, etc. we can see that this is an area that many have concerns on.

Before we get into what the word says let's look at some statistics that was just put out this week on the top paid players and their salaries:

- (1) Tiger Woods, 78.1 M
- (3) Kobe Bryant 61.9 M
- (4) Lebron James 59.8 M
- (5) Drew Brees 51 M
- (6) Aaron Rogers 49 M
- (8) David Beckham 47.2 M
- (14) Floyd Mayweather & Manny Pacquiao 34 M
- (24) Tony Romo 28.2 M

It still amazes me why we pay players and actors so much money and don't do the same for people we should be elevating like, teachers, police, firefighters, military, etc. It shows you where our priorities are?

So today we're going to look at Your Finances and God's Provision. One of the most amazing, incredible, all-encompassing promises in the Bible is found in Philippians 4:19. And is God's guarantee regarding your finances. *"God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."* This verse is so packed! I want you to pay attention to several words.

First it says, "*God will...*" It doesn't say, "He **might** meet your needs" it says "He will meet your needs."

Then it says, "*God will meet all...*" It doesn't say "I'll meet some of your needs" He says **all**.

- Does that include car payments? Yes.
- Braces? Yes.
- Homes? Yes.

All your **needs**. It doesn't say "I'll meet all your **greed's**." There's a difference between needs and wants.

As a parent, do you give your kids everything they want? I hope you don't. You don't because you love them; in the same respect our heavenly Father also loves us. He's not going to give you everything you want; you'd be spoiled to death.

But it says, I will meet **all your needs** according to His wealth, His riches. It's not based on my assets, thank God. It's based on what God has and He doesn't run out of resources.

He says "*... for you in Christ Jesus.*" This is a promise **only for believers**. This is not a promise for everybody.

- God has not promised to meet everybody's needs.
- God has not promised to meet the needs of people who reject His Son.

This is only for believers, for those who are in Christ Jesus. But He says, if you're one of my children, in my family, I promise to meet **all your needs**."

Romans 8:28 (NASB) "*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*"

Romans 8:28 (Amplified Bible)

We are assured and know that God being a partner in their labor, all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.

Saints I find **no place** in scripture where it says God promises to meet the needs of a believer who is not following God's commands in giving!

With every promise there is a premise. There are conditions, requirements. There are things God says, "I'll do my part and you do your part."

God has laid out financial principles in His word.

There are many financial principles -- more than we can go into this morning.

- Principles of saving,
- Principles of spending,
- Principles of giving,
- Principles of investing,
- Principles of using your resources.

There are some conditions we can look at this morning. Specifically five. God says if you meet these conditions then I guarantee that I will meet all your financial needs. That's a pretty big promise. The guarantee is you do these things and you'll never have to worry about finances again. That's exactly what God says.

God has promised to meet all my financial needs....

1. If I ask for His help.
2. If I learn to be content.
3. If I practice giving in faith.
4. If I maintain my integrity. (Financial integrity, being honest.)
5. If I trust Him with my life. (Completely)

1. IF I ASK FOR HIS HELP

James 4:2 *"You do not have because you do not ask God."* That's pretty clear. God is waiting for you to ask.

God wants to help, but the problem is, you don't ask.

"Jesus says, in Matthew 7:7, '**Ask** and it will be given you. **Search**, and you will find. **Knock**, and the door will open for you.'"

Pay attention to the first letter of those three words, **Ask, Search, Knock** what does that spell? **ASK.**

Get the message!

Possibly one of the reasons why you never see miracles in your life is you never ask for it. Would you like to see God work in your life more? Start asking.

Try this simple exercise, before you pay for it, pray for it. Stop and ask God. Give God a chance to give it to you before you go out and charge it. You probably depend more on your charge card than you do Jesus Christ. Before you pay for it, stop and pray for it.

Why does God want me to ask? Because He's a loving father. Loving fathers love to bestow gifts on their kids. I love to give my kids things and I'm a loving father.

John 16:24 Jesus is talking, "*You've not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy.*"

- Why does God want me to ask? So He can give.
- Why does He want to give? So I can receive.
- Why does He want me to receive? So I'll be full of joy.
- Why does He want me to be full of joy? So I can become a blessing to someone else!

It's a great advertisement for Jesus Christ. Joyful Christians are a positive testimony. Rather than a bad testimony, like you have been baptized in vinegar or lemon juice.

If you pray as much about your finances as you worry about them you'd have a lot less to worry about. God says Ask, I'm waiting for you to ask Me.

2. IF YOU'LL LEARN TO BE CONTENT

Why? Because God's far more interested in your character than He is your comfort.

He's not just interested in making life easy and sheltering us, rather than maintaining us and empowering us.

Contentment Illustration:

They huddled inside the storm door, two children in ragged outgrown coats. She heard them at the door and when she opened it they said, any old papers Lady?

I was a little busy and wanted to say no, until I looked down at their feet and saw thin little sandals, soaked from the cold rain and sleet.

Come on in and I will make you a hot cup of cocoa, there was no conversation. And their soggy sandals left marks upon the kitchen floor.

Cocoa and toast with jam to fortify against the chill outside. I went back in the kitchen and started again on what I was doing.

The silence of the children in the front room struck me so I peeked in to see what they were doing and I saw the girl holding her empty cup in her hands looking at it.

The Boy saw me and asked in a flat voice. "Lady are you Rich?"

Am I rich? Heavens no, I said as I looked down at my shabby slippers. The girl put the cup back I her saucer carefully and said, "Lady your cups and saucers match."

Her voice was old with a hunger that was not from her stomach.

They left holding the bundle of papers I gave them to help keep them warm against the cold and wind.

They hadn't said Thank you, but they didn't need to. They had done more than that.

Plain blue pottery cups and saucers, but they matched!

I tasted the potatoes and stirred the gravy. No meat, but potatoes and gravy they matched!

A roof over my head and a fire to break the chill in the air, it matched!

A man with a steady job, still at work, but would be home soon, that matched too!

I moved the chairs back from the fire and tidied the living room. The muddy prints from the small sandals were still wet and visible on the floor.

I let it be, I want them in case I ever forget, how very Rich I am!

1 Timothy 6 "There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it."

What is contentment?

- Contentment is not, not having any goals.
- Contentment is not, not having ambition.
- Contentment is not even, not having financial goals. Financial goals are fine.
- Contentment means my happiness is not dependent upon circumstances.

Most people get caught into "when" thinking –

- When I get such and such, then I'll be happy.
- When I get to a certain level economically.
- When I get a certain job.
- When I can retire ... then I'll be happy.
- When I get the house paid off...
- When I get the bills paid off... then!

God says "No, once you get there you'll always want something else. You always want more."

God says I want you to learn contentment. It's not, not having goals. It's saying my happiness is dependent upon the Lord not on my circumstances in life.

How do you learn to be content? Now pay attention because I am going to give you some very rich **theological depth** here...

You learn contentment by **stopping** doing **what causes** discontentment.

Can God trust you with wealth? Have you learned to be content? God says He wants you to learn contentment.

3. IF YOU PRACTICE GIVING IN FAITH

This is called the Law of the Harvest. 2 Corinthians 9 *"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for **God loves a cheerful giver.**"*

If ever you feel pressured to give, don't. God says don't give under pressure. You should only give when you want to give cheerfully. You don't get any credit for giving under pressure, giving out of guilt.

This is the principle of Sowing and Reaping. This principle is the law of the universe and it applies to every area of your life.

- If I sow criticism I'm going to reap criticism.
- If I sow kindness I'm going to reap kindness.
- If I sow generosity, it's going to come back to me and I'm going to reap generosity.
- If I sow energy, I'm going to reap energy.

It's amazing but if you go to a Gym and work out you'll feel tired, but the next day you'll have more energy, because by expending energy you produce more energy. It's like giving blood: You give blood and it just reproduces itself. It multiplies. Whatever you need more of you simply try and give it away.

This is the principle of sowing and reaping.

Every **farmer** knows this. A farmer has four sacks of seed in his barn and he looks at his barren field, no crop. He doesn't start griping -- "There's no crop! I wish there was a crop!" He just goes out and starts planting seed.

When you have a **need**, plant a **seed**.

He goes out, plants seed, it reproduces and he gets more than he had when he started. Do four sacks of seed produce four sacks of seed? No.

Far more than that. They multiply a hundredfold. No farmer in his right mind would say, "I can't afford to plant, to sow. This is all the seed I've got, only four sacks of it. Therefore I'm just going to hold on to the seed." The only way he's going to get anything out of it is by giving it away. He's got to plant it. If he holds on to it that's all he's got. But if he gives it away, it multiplies.

That is true with your money. It's true with everything else in your life. It seems illogical that when I have a need, I need to give. It is illogical.

Luke 6:38 "Jesus said, 'Give and it will be given unto you. And the measure you use to give out will be the measure which God uses to give back to you.'"

We like to say, "Lord, when all my needs are met, then I'll give away." God says, "No, when you give away, then all your needs will be met."

Why? Because it requires faith.

Proverbs 3 "Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income and He will fill your barns to overflow."

Tithing is not charity. God says, "Put Me first in your life and watch what I do. I'll bless you. Your barns will overflow."

Why does He say, Give me the first part. He doesn't say, Pay all your bills and then give. You won't have any then.

The first ten percent of everything we've ever made goes back to the Lord, because God needs it? No. Because He wants what it represents -- your heart.

The Bible says, in Matthew 6:19-20 *"Where your treasure is your heart is also."* If you say Jesus is number one in your life but He's not first in your finances and your time, He's not first. Stop kidding yourself.

"Give and it will be given to you." Give the first part of the income to the Lord and watch Him bless it.

Some of you think you can't afford to tithe. But I honestly say, as the associate pastor, here that you **can't afford not to.**

1 Tim. 6:9-10, "But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

The Bible gives us more warnings against greed/money than practically any other vice.

We will **NEVER** find contentment in more stuff!

When we try, we're telling God that He's not enough for us, not our All in All.

Heb. 13:5, *"Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"*

4. IF YOU MAINTAIN YOUR INTEGRITY

God doesn't bless dishonesty. Proverbs 16:11 *"The Lord demands fairness in every business deal."*

That includes wages, sales, and taxes. If you want God's blessing on your finance you've got to be honest. You can't rip people off.

Proverbs 19:1 *"Better to be poor and honest than rich and dishonest."*

Why? Because Jesus said, *"What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and loses his soul?"*

"The blessing of the Lord brings wealth and He adds no trouble to it." Have you ever known anybody who made money and it just brought trouble? Profit made dishonestly always brings trouble. Always.

You will always reap what you sow. If you are dishonest with others it will be returned to you.

You do not mock God and get away with it. Whatever you sow you will inevitably reap. Be honest. Be honest with your finances.

Sometimes the pressure to get ahead -- or just the pressure to keep up -- is so overwhelming that we, even as believers, are often tempted to compromise our ethics.

God has said that He will meet your needs if I ask for his help, and I learn contentment, and I give in faith, and I maintain my integrity.

Saints the decision to do what is right and trust God is not a once for all decision. It is a daily **moment by moment** decision.

Philippians 4:6-7 *"Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

5. IF I TRUST HIM WITH MY LIFE

Matthew 6:33 *"Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well what you need and he will give it to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to."*

How much do you trust God?

I must trust Him with my life. Because as long as I love anything more than God that thing or person or item will become a source of anxiety.

If you allow anything besides God to take first place in your life that item will become a source of anxiety because you can lose it.

1 Timothy 6 *"Don't put your hope in wealth which is so uncertain. But put your hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."*

No matter how much you make you can still loose it all. It's uncertain thanks to:

- Lawsuits, thanks to long term
- Illnesses,
- Hospital bills,
- Disasters

There are many ways you can be wiped out in a matter of months no matter how much you've got.

You must always remind yourself, **my security** is not my bank account. No matter how much I've got in it, my security is not my bank account. **My security is in the Lord.**

Psalm 111:5 *"He gives food to those who trust Him. He never forgets His promises."*

The Bible tells us that God sent His son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for you to pay for your salvation. If God loves you enough to send His own son to die for you, don't you think He loves you enough to take care of your bills?

Don't you realize that any other problem is minor by comparison, that He solved your biggest problem when He saved you?

The bottom line is really this: Am I going to believe God to do what He says He will do? That He will provide for me. Am I going to believe Him enough to do what He tells me to do as evidence of that faith?

Psalm 34:4 *"I sought the Lord and He heard me. He delivered me from all my fears."*

The answer to your fears is a person, Jesus Christ. You need to hope in the Lord.

Phil. 4:19, *"And my God will meet all your needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus."*

Do we really believe this? Do we really believe God's Word is true?

Do we trust God to meet all our needs?

The trouble is, we've confused our needs with our wants.

- 100 years ago, electricity, telephones, vehicles were a luxury.
- 20 years ago, AC, computers and video games were a luxury.

2 Cor. 9:8, *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything; you may have an abundance for every good deed"*

Do we really believe that? What makes you happy? What brings you contentment?

Let me ask you this: would you be content if you didn't get that promotion / raise? If you didn't get that new car or new clothes?

Let's dig a little deeper...

- Would you be content if you're health was failing?
- If you were in pain,
- your marriage fell apart,
- your house burned down,
- spouse died

Real joy is not dependent upon having our **needs met**.

Real contentment does not depend on our **circumstances**.

It is only learned through experience and dependence.

being in that **Submitted-Committed** Relationship!

There is such a thing as perfect peace, & true contentment. But we will never find it in worldly possessions or circumstances.

The secret to contentment is **Christ alone**.

- Nothing More,
- Nothing Less,
- Nothing Else.

If you're serious about being set free from financial fears it's your choice. But you must choose to do what God has clearly told us to do.

He's laid it out. He said, "I will do this -- **the promise** -- if you will obey the premise."

I want to **challenge you** to solidify your commitment this morning.

- Are you're going to start asking God more for help in your finances, not just going out and charging it, but asking God for help.
- Are you going to start learning to be content, stop comparing?
- Are you going to start tithing the first part of your income as God has commanded and in faith that He's going to take care of my needs as an act of worship?
- Are you going to live with integrity and be honest in your finances, not cheat?
- Are you trusting Jesus Christ completely with every area of your life?

If you're not going to do any of the first four, don't kid yourself. You're not really doing number five. Jesus said, "*If you love me, you keep my commandments.*"

Prayer:

Father, thank You that you are a heavenly Father and you've promised to meet all our needs. The ball's in our court. It's up to us to decide if we'll follow the conditions that you've laid out. Thank you God that you never fail a promise that You've made, that you are trustworthy. I pray that, today, many will trust you and take these steps. In Jesus' name. Amen.