

His Provision **Philippians 4:19**

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“But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

A friend of mine, a fairly new Christian, was at a religious conference some years ago when an offering was taken to meet the needs of a missionary who was on his way overseas. As my friend heard the need explained he felt that he should give something. The longer he listened to the needs of the missionary and his family, he became convinced that he should have a substantial part in the endeavor.

But he had a problem. In his billfold he knew he had two bills, a twenty and a one. He had traveled many miles to get to the conference and his car needed gas. He didn't want to give the one-dollar bill; it didn't seem to be enough. He was afraid to give the twenty, what would he have to eat on and what would he use for gas? He didn't want to stop the plate as it went by and fumble around and make change for the \$20. What to do?

Then an idea hit him. Why not leave the choice with God? So he prayed and asked the Lord to make the choice. He closed his eyes, reached into the billfold, took out a bill, and opened his eyes. It was the twenty! His faith began to waver just a little. So with perspiration on his forehead and his heart beating a little faster, he put the \$20 into the plate.

Suffice it to say that he made it home. The minor miracles that God wrought to do it and the great lessons God taught him are another story. Now as he looks back on the experience he can see how God used it to strengthen his faith to rely on God's resources and provision.

That's what today's verse is all about. This church had made a sacrifice, acceptable and well pleasing to God. Paul writes to them and says: “You supplied my needs out of your great poverty. Now God shall supply your needs out of His great riches and abundance.”

You cannot out give God. If you give to the Lord by the teaspoon from your meager supply, He will respond by the shovel full, out of his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. He shall supply all your needs.

So, an offering made freely in grateful love to God will not go unnoticed. They had given to Paul, God's servant, who was carrying on the work of God to the glory of God. So Paul says, my God shall supply all your needs, both spiritual and temporal. What a promise!

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