

“GOD CAN!” (Part 4)
“... Satisfy Our Needs” (2 Cor. 9:6-8; Phil. 4:19-20)

INTRO: God is able (HE CAN) because He is unlimited in His power. He is omnipotent. He can do anything He chooses to do, which will never violate His character. He is compassionate and good. “Able” = dynamite.

REVIEW: God can save the lost (Lk. 19:10; 2 Pet. 3:9; Heb. 7:25). He is further able to secure the saved (Heb. 7:25; 2 Tim. 1:12; Jude 24).

Today: What are your life’s three greatest needs? God can satisfy our needs. Financial, relational, vocational, physical, etc. He is not our personal “genie”. He knows what we need before we even ask. He has promised to supply our needs (not greed) Phil. 4:19-20. What we think we need often conflicts with what God knows we need. He can if He wills.

BACKGROUND: Paul founded church on his second missionary journey AD 50-52 about 3,000 miles (Acts 16:12-40). Map . . . He returned there on his third journey as well (Acts 20:1-5). He loved the church, and they loved him. Now imprisoned in Rome, they sent Paul a gift by Epaphroditus (4:14-18). They were generous and Paul was thankful. Out of their faithful generosity, is Paul giving them a guarantee or a conditional promise...?

I. A PROMISE IS STATED (Phil. 4:19-20)

- A. *Personal* (“my God”) – in relationship with Him - The same God that...
- B. *Positive* (“will supply”) – total confidence – He’s the Source.
- C. *Plenteous* (“every need of yours”) – Paul was glad they gave because of what it did for *them*.
- D. *Powerful* (“according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”) – in proportion to His plenty – according to not out of His riches
- E. *Productive* (Motive) – v. 20 God be glorified is always the goal in all we do.

II. A PROMISE IS ILLUSTRATED (2 Cor. 8-9) – largest section of teaching in Scripture on giving. Two examples: Macedonians and Christ (8:1-9)

Context? Paul’s third journey was largely to collect a relief offering for the struggling believers in Jerusalem (Rom. 15:25-27). When Paul visited Corinth, a church founded on his second journey, they (much like the Philippians), were generous (Acts 16:11-17:13).

- A. *What They Did* (2 Cor. 8:1-5). They gave:

- 1. Faithfully – in spite of their circumstances or finances – gave out of their poverty (v.2)
- 2. Cheerfully – motivated by grace (vv. 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 19)
- 3. Generously, sacrificially – beyond their means (v.3)

Note: Following example of Christ (vv.8-9). How could they do this? First gave themselves. When grace comes in, greed walks out. Gratitude becomes our motivation not guilt.

- B. *What Paul Asked* (2 Cor. 9:1-7). Be ready to be generous. Always look for and seize opportunities to give — to supply the needs of others. We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. Two hindrances: greed (v.7) and fear (vv.8-10).
- C. *What God Did* (2 Cor. 9:8-15). How did God respond to their generosity? He supplied and satisfied their needs (Phil. 4:19). The more we plant the more we harvest (vv. 6, 11). Goal? God is glorified (v.13). Plus (v.22 “All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household.”) — powerful witness.

ILLUS: Lk. 19 (Grace causes generosity) – When grace show up greed walks out!

LESSON: When we faithfully, generously, and cheerfully satisfy the needs of others, God does the same for us (Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38). When we invest in God’s work, He keeps record – and credits our account. So, is Phil. 4:19 a conditional promise? Perhaps! Is this a promise for everyone or only for the generous? I believe this is a promise for believers who are sacrificially supporting God’s work guaranteeing that He will meet their needs out of His riches. There’s a direct correlation between faithful stewardship and God’s provision (Lk. 6:38). As we share our resources to meet the needs of others, God meets our needs out of His resources. No way to out-give God. Eph. 3:20 . . .

CONC: God CAN satisfy our needs.