

# Flourishing in the Workplace – Part 5 God’s Provision

## Introduction

Having expressed three petitions of cosmic scope with a concern for God’s honor, God’s Kingdom and God’s purposes the last four petitions of the Lord’s prayer pertain to the unique blessings we experience today. The structure of the Lord’s prayer shifts our focus from what is happening around us, from our accomplishments, our self-image to God and God’s character and what God is doing.

Only after we have expressed our concern for God’s honor, God’s Kingdom and God’s purposes can we see how our needs find their place in the overall priority of God’s will rather than our desires. Only after expressing our burning concern for God’s glory can we express our humble dependence on God’s grace. Understanding and glorifying God doesn’t eliminate our needs or change our situations. Rather glorifying God sets us free to bring our needs before him and trust him to righteously, lovingly and perfectly meet our needs.

Whether we love our work and our workplace, or don’t enjoy our work, or find ourselves in a toxic workplace the first three petitions have reminded us that while we live in the real world, our home is in heaven. Remembering that our home is in heaven, that our Father is still on the throne accomplishing his purposes, we acknowledge that our abilities, our workplace, our employer, our family are all gifts from God. Then from a posture of humility and obedience we ask God to meet our material, spiritual and emotional needs. In faith we believe that God will meet these needs not a moment before or a moment late.

## A - God’s Provision

### Read

Matt 6:9-11 – Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
<sup>10</sup>your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup>Give us today our daily bread.

Ps 104:14-15 – He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—  
bringing forth food from the earth:  
wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts.

Ps 104:27-28 – All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.  
When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

Pr 30:7-9 - <sup>7</sup>“Two things I ask of you, Lord; do not refuse me before I die:  
<sup>8</sup>Keep falsehood and lies far from me;  
give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.  
<sup>9</sup>Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’  
Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Matt 10:29-30 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care<sup>1 30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

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## Questions

1. What character traits of God do we see in God’s blessing us with our daily bread?
2. When you have a job where your work is fulfilling and you like your workplace and you pray ‘Give us today our daily bread’ – what are you saying, what are you expecting God to do?
3. When you find your work boring, or frustrating or consuming, or find yourself working with difficult people what does God do when you pray ‘Give us today our daily bread’?
4. Look at Ex 16:9-30 and the story of God providing manna for the Israelites.
  - a. Why does God give us our daily bread? (see Ex 16:28)
  - b. What should our response be to God’s provision?
5. What are some examples of the physical, emotional, relational, financial, and spiritual resources God daily provides for us?

## B – Being a wise steward of God’s Provision

### Read Genesis 41:22-39

<sup>22</sup> “In my dream I saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk. <sup>23</sup> After them, seven other heads sprouted—withered and thin and scorched by the east wind. <sup>24</sup> The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me.”

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>26</sup> The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. <sup>27</sup> The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine.

<sup>28</sup> “It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>29</sup> Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, <sup>30</sup> but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. <sup>31</sup> The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. <sup>32</sup> The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

<sup>33</sup> “And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. <sup>34</sup> Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. <sup>35</sup> They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. <sup>36</sup> This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”

<sup>37</sup> The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. <sup>38</sup> So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God<sup>[a]</sup>?”

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<sup>39</sup>Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. <sup>40</sup>You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

### Questions

6. We don’t know the future – we don’t know when something will change in our work or work environment, yet God expects us to be wise stewards of his blessings.
  - a. What does being a wise steward with God’s daily blessings enable us to do when circumstances change?
  - b. How can you be a wise steward of the financial resources God daily blesses us with?
  - c. How can you be a wise steward of the physical resources God daily blesses us with?
  - d. How can you be a wise steward of the emotional / relational resources God daily blesses us with?
  - e. How can you be a wise steward of the spiritual resources God daily blesses us with? (See John 6:48-51; Jer 31:33)

*John 6:48-51 – I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. <sup>50</sup>But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

*Jer 31:33 –This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

### Conclusion

May your heart be filled with praise for God’s bountiful provision in your life.

*Praise God from whom all Blessings flow,  
Praise him all Creatures here below,  
Praise him above, ye Heavenly Host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

### Application

7. Share with a partner one story of God’s provision. Take time to praise God together, and to pray for faith to continue to trust God for your daily bread today.