



Having Faith for the Bread

Sunday Sermon – 5/18/2025

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

Matthew 6:8-11 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. Our Daily Bread, the portion of riches that we need to live a Good and Godly Life.

2 Peter 1:3 By his divine power, God has (*Past Tense*) given us everything we need for living a godly life.

Our daily bread is His spiritual nourishment and physical sustenance, which come from the riches of the Father through Christ Jesus.

We serve a rich God!

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Here, Jesus is telling satan that humanity really needs both spiritual nourishment and physical sustenance.

These riches are linked to the spiritual blessings that God has laid up for us before we entered this reality. **Ephesians 1:3.** These are already provided by God, but we need faith to access them.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith is the substance for both spiritual nourishment and physical sustenance.

1 John 2:24-25 (NLT) So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. 25 And in this fellowship, we enjoy (*present tense*) the eternal life he promised us.

Therefore, we must remain **faithful** and **focused** in order to receive the abundance God has promised us in His Word. Focus on His word so we can be faithful to His word.

Spiritual Nourishment:

Just as our body requires nutritious food to remain healthy, our soul also needs good spiritual nourishment to thrive. Spiritual nourishment is crucial for the development and maturity of the soul.

There are five key elements that contribute to effective spiritual nourishment:



1. Fellowship with God: Engaging in prayer, praise, and Godly meditation, as we go throughout the day. This is vital for maintaining a deep connection with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Receiving the Word of God: Regularly hearing and studying God's Word is essential for cultivating and strengthening faith.
3. Shining Your Light: Performing good works is a practical way to express one's faith and positively impact others. Remembering, as you give to others, God will give back to you.
4. Engaging with Other Believers: Through both formal and informal gatherings, we can support and encourage one another as we grow into the image of Christ.
5. Generosity: Giving physical resources to God and those in need is an important aspect of living a godly Life.

Physical Sustenance

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

God's physical sustenance contains Goods, Resources, and Services!

Supply: Greek - pleróō; To make full. To make full, fill.

"Supply" also means to offer something, but it often implies continuous or ongoing provision of large quantities of goods, resources, or services.

God wants to fill our every need with physical sustenance on a continual basis.

When Jesus fed the 5000, God provided more than enough sustenance. After everyone was fed, there were fish and bread to fill 12 basket loads.

When the widow fed Elijah in **1 Kings 17**, she had a continual supply of sustenance which contained flour and oil for her household to have throughout the whole time of famine.

Kings 17:8-16: Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." 11 And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

12 So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." 13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'"



15 So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.

Elijah's first act of faith was to get up and go in response to the voice of the Lord. If he had been disobedient, he would have hindered the process. Acts of obedience must accompany our faith.

Elijah had to believe what the Lord had said, **“I have commanded a widow there to provide for you”**.

What God had orchestrated and provided for Elijah to do to meet their needs were;

God provided a person - a widow.

God provided a Place - **Zarephath**. He had to go to the place.

God provided what she needed- A word from God. **Spiritual Nourishment**

What God had orchestrated and provided for the widow to do to meet their needs were;

God provided a person- Elijah.

God provided a place- **Zarephath**, where she had to stay in place.

God provided what he needed - flour, oil, and sticks. **Physical Sustenance**.

What was in command about what God had orchestrated was the place **Zarephath**.

God had commanded/orchestrated the entire situation from the unseen world to the visible world.

The manifestation of this plan would only occur if both of them obeyed the word of the Lord.

Elijah had to obey the word of the Lord that came directly to him from God.

The widow had to obey the word of the Lord that came to her through Elijah.

If either one had refused to be obedient by faith, the miracle providing physical sustenance to meet both of their needs would not have occurred.

Because both of them were willing to share what God had provided, they were both blessed abundantly.

15 “So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. 16 The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah”.

She offered some of the **“Physical Sustenance”** - little oil, bread, and sticks that God had provided to make a cake and sow it into the man of God, Elijah.

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Elijah provided “**Spiritual Nourishment**” - a prophetic word from the Lord to the widow so she could obey it, and they all (including Elijah) would be supplied with enough oil and flour to last throughout the famine.

The three phases of the prophetic word.

Stay in faith-**"Do not fear"**

2. Apply faith by following the command:

"Go and do as you have said, but first make me a small cake from it and bring it to me; afterward, make some for yourself and your son."

3. Trust God by believing that your obedience will lead to a positive outcome.

As the Lord God of Israel says, "The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth."

She needed to do more than just hear and obey the word; she had to trust that her obedience would result in the fulfillment of the promise made in that word.