



## Word Study on "God's Providence"

**Providence** – God providing protective or spiritual care, sustaining and guiding human destiny. God omnisciently directing the universe and the affairs of humankind with wise benevolence.

Please read the following passages and answer the associated questions.

- (1) Where did the Manna come from? (Exodus 16:4, John 6:30-33) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Compare Exodus 16:4 and 2nd Corinthians 8:8. What is the same and what is different?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) In 2 Corinthians 8:15, Paul quotes Exodus 16:18 to make a point. What is his point?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Of the two kinds of bread described in Exodus 16:35 and John 6:48-51, which one lasts longer?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) 1st Corinthians 10:4 tells us something about the rock in Exodus 17:6. What?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) What do Exodus 16:21 and Matthew 6:11 have in common? \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) Matthew 6:11 says "Give us today our daily bread." Have you ever thought this sentence was a little redundant? Why not say "Give us our daily bread," or "Give us today our bread." Think about this question in terms of the requirement that the Israelites were to only gather what Manna was necessary for each day. (Instructions which they disobeyed in every way possible,)

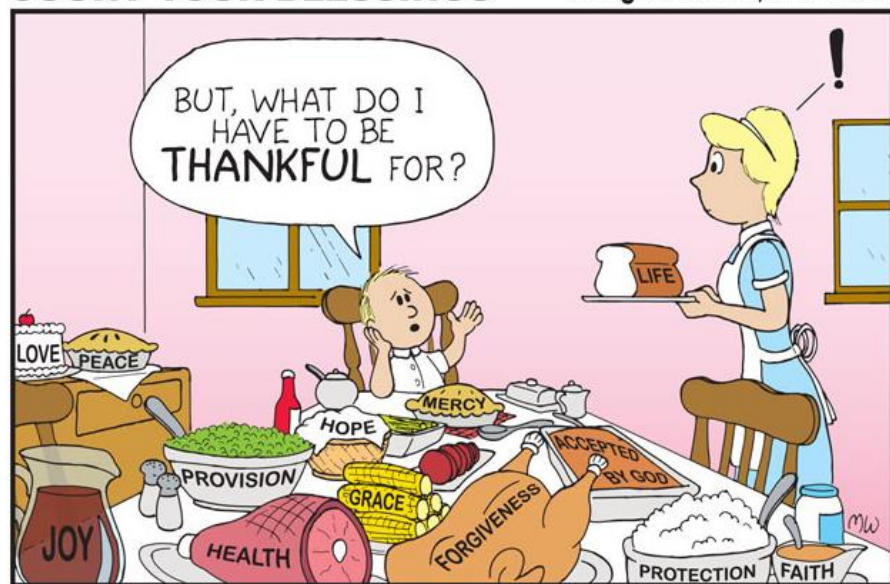
Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

– PSALM 103:2 NIV

### Scripture Word Study – God's Providence

- (1) God sent it.
- (2) (Same) In both verses the hearer is being tested.  
(Different) In Exodus God is testing obedience, in 2nd Corinthians, Paul is testing love.
- (3) That we don't need to hold onto more than we need.
- (4) Jesus, the Living Bread
- (5) Christ is our spiritual Rock.
- (6) Daily
- (7) Matthew 6:11 says "Give us today our daily bread." Have you ever thought this sentence was a little redundant? The answer is not an easy one and has been a subject of discussion among theologians all the way back to the first century. I have read some of what the linguists and theologians say and have come to believe that Jesus was emphasizing two things: (1) That we are to focus on today, and (2) We are to expect only what is necessary for survival. I think the word "today" means "just today." Tomorrow we will need to pray again for what we need tomorrow. I think "daily" means "only what we need today." (See also Matthew 6:25-34)

#### For further thought:

- [8] In Exodus 16:4 God is testing obedience, and in 2nd Corinthians 8:8, Paul is testing love, but is there really a difference between love and obedience with regard to God?
- [9] In Exodus 16:4 it says the instructions about gathering manna were a test to see if the Lord would be obeyed. Does God still test us in that way today? Can you think of anything in the New Testament to support your answer? (Hints: 1 Corinthians 10:13, James 1:2, James 1:17)
- [10] Compare Exodus 16:15 and Revelation 2:17. In both cases the bread or manna is mysterious. Are they the same thing in both verses, or are they different?
- [11] *Read and discuss* in context these passages in context that talk about God's providence:  
Genesis 22:8,14; Genesis 45:11; Genesis 50:21 ; Exodus 15:22; 1 Kings 17:4,9; Psalm 78:20; Psalm 132:15; Psalm 147:8; John 21:12; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 3:5; Philippians 1:19



Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: - MATTHEW 7:7 KJV