

THE PROVISION OF GOD

*Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven on you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction."
(Ex. 16.4)*

Long ago and far away when dinosaurs roamed the earth, I enjoyed running. Because I enjoyed running, I learned the value of a good pair of running shoes. My feet pronate badly so I always looked for shoes with a high arch and solid heel support. But no matter how solidly the shoes supported my feet, eventually I would begin to run them over. When I could set the shoes down and look at them, and they were leaning significantly inward I knew it was time to buy new shoes. And such was the case at a former church I pastored.

I had shared with a church member how I was going to have to start looking for a new pair of shoes because I was running mine over. During our conversation, he asked what kind of shoes I preferred and my size. One day he came to my house with a brand-new pair of running shoes in my size. He said he just wanted to bless me with a new pair of running shoes. And these shoes lasted quite a while, a great blessing! Although I was not praying for a new pair of running shoes, God provided me a new pair through a church member. I do not run anymore because of bad knees but I still appreciate the value of a good pair of running shoes for walking.

In Exodus 16 the Hebrews complained and grumbled because they had no food to eat. During their forty-year wilderness wanderings, the Hebrews would grumble and complain often, and many times their grumbling and complaining got them in trouble. God provided the Hebrews with an interesting food they called manna. According to the Bible, manna, "was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers with honey (Ex. 16.31)." Manna would miraculously appear every morning just as the sun was coming up and would melt once the sun became hot. God provided this manna to the Hebrews every day (except on the Sabbath) for the forty years they were in the wilderness.

How do we understand the provision of God? God provides what we need when we need it. God knows before we do what we need. God is never late and is always on time with His provision. God may not provide like *we think* He should provide, but God always provides. Sometimes we have our own idea about how God should provide, and we are always wrong about how God should provide.

God provides for His children as a demonstration of His love. God provides for His children as a testimony to His faithful and loving care of His own. God provides for His children because God knows more than we do about what we need.

I have produced a simple acrostic using the word 'provide' to help you understand the importance of the provision of God. The provision of God:

Proves He is aware of our needs

Reaffirms our faith in Him

Overcomes our needs

Vital for our walk of faith

Individual to each person based on the need

Deliberate choice on God's part

Encouraging, we serve the God who hears, cares, and provides

The greatest provision God has blessed us with is the provision of a Savior through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and raised on the third day, we do not have to suffer the penalty of our sin through faith and trust in Christ. Praise the Lord we serve the God who is active in our lives, knows what we need, and provides us with blessings designed to point back to Him as the source.