

JUNE 13th and 14th
GOD PROVIDES TO SHOW HIS GLORY

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.” PHILIPPIANS 4:19-20

The year was 1834, and times of poverty and struggle were everywhere, especially with children. 3,600 orphans with a place to live...in the entire country of England. The rest of them were forced to fend for themselves or were in the prison system in England. Enter the man whose name was George Muller. John Piper describes Muller as the man who fed ten thousand orphans with prayer. That's right. 10,000 orphans. Even further, according to Muller's biographer, fifty years after Muller began his ministry to orphans, over 100,000 orphans were cared for in England! What can God teach us through this extraordinary man?

A famous true story of Muller happened like this: at one of the orphanages, there were 300 children waiting for breakfast one morning, but there was one problem. There was no food or milk left in the orphanage. Muller told the workers to have the children sit down to eat as they normally would. He thanked God for the food. Then moments later a baker told Muller he could not sleep the last night and somehow knew that they would need bread that morning, so he baked three batches for them. But that's not all. There was another knock at the door...it was the milkman. His milk cart had broken down in front of the orphanage, and the milk would spoil because the repair would take too long. He asked if they would like free milk...and the milk was just enough to feed...you guessed it, 300 children. All because of God's grace and providence!

Men, we must be cautious here when we read of the immense faith of Muller. The temptation for any of us is to say that his faith is unreachable and extraordinary. No ordinary man of God could have the same faith of that of George Muller. This is stinky thinking. That's exactly what Satan wants us to think. As humans we make these stories about people rather than the God who it all points to. Muller understood this. People in his generation described him as possessing the gift of faith, but Muller rebuked them for this position. Piper describes Muller as possessing the grace of faith, not the gift of faith...and there's a big difference between the two. One is a spiritual gift that God gives. The other is by God's grace we trust in God's promises. Perhaps we put Muller on a pedestal because we don't really want to trust God in everything, so we claim that his faith was a special faith that we don't possess. But God. God calls us to prayer with trusting faith. Trusting faith is all over the Scriptures. Consider Deuteronomy 8:3: *“And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”* Jesus instructs the disciples to pray in Matthew 6 *“Give us this day our daily bread (or our bread for tomorrow).”* Later in that same sermon Jesus calls us to *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Men, I could write chapters on God's providing of our needs. George Muller has been dead for over a hundred years, but his God lives on. That's your God. God calls us to simple trust in His care for us. That's right...you are His son! And your Father in heaven gives you exactly what you need for today. Will you trust Him? Will you pray boldly for him to give you the wisdom and strength for today? Here's another comforting thought, according to Romans 8:18, the Holy Spirit takes your simple prayer and prays it exactly according to God's will. You don't have to wonder anymore if your prayer is according to God's will. Does a child wonder about such things? Instead, a humble child asks a father boldly, trusting the father to provide. Trust Him today, men!

Spend some time asking our Father to help us trust Him today, and then pray boldly for you and your family's needs

For Further Reading: Romans 8:26-39