



Looking Up for God's Provision

Philippians 4:8-20

When purchasing an item or utilizing a service, it can be important to read the Terms & Conditions. One survey discovered that less than 1% of users participating read the Terms & Conditions, although 70% claimed to read them and 33% claimed to “read them thoroughly.”

Like the Terms & Conditions agreement, it is important to know the promises of God in the Bible also have Terms & Conditions. These are most often found in the context of where the promise is located.

Knowing the context of a promise is so vital because we all face the tension in life of believing for something in the Bible yet not seeing it in our lives. In this message, we will look at a promise of God's provision and discover its context. In doing so, we'll see:

When you feel down to nothing, God is up to something!

We have in Verse 19 is a promise of God's provision, and in Verse 20, a doxology. There are two critical reasons to reading these in context:

- 1) We live at times in the tension of believing yet not seeing.
- 2) Understanding the biblical context can ease some of the tension we feel and empower us in faith.

Let's look at the context:

- 1) Verse 19 contains a precious promise that is always true,

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2) In Verse 12, Paul admits to times of being in need!

What we have here is the **Paradox of Provision**, where both are true.

The answer to easing the tension we feel and being empowered in faith is found in Verse 19, which is why,

When you feel down to nothing, God is up to something!

¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

God's provision is not according to what I want right now, but to a much larger plan! When we don't see the provision we long for, God is providing something else right now!

When you feel down to nothing, God is up to something!

This is our invitation to look up!

This week I invite you to two simple exercises to apply the Word:

1) Set a timer for 10 minutes and sit with an area of life in which you need provision.

2) Write out these verses and rehearse them this week.

Let's be a church that looks up when life is a letdown! You'll be glad you did, and so will the world around you!

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