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God Did His Part

*“Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion”
(Proverbs 30:8 *)*

The man returned to consciousness, becoming aware of the bustling activity around him in the operating room. His eyes beheld the doctor removing the instruments from his chest and the doctor's associates looking on with concern. The man soon learned the instruments had been used to return his heart to its normal rhythm.



It was not in God's plan to bring the man's life to a close at that moment in time. God had more work to be accomplished in raising the young family and in the business world. There was the Lord's work yet ahead, the extent of which the man could not possibly have understood at this point.

As he lay in the hospital bed, the man recalled the scripture. *"Two things I asked of Thee, do not refuse me before I die. Keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches: feed me with the food that is my portion, lest I be full and deny Thee and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God"* (Proverbs 30: 7-8*) The man agreed with God that very hour to do his best to work for the *"food that was his portion"*

The man's level of spiritual understanding at the time was such that he knew God could and would supply his family's material needs. God assured the man that as long as he did his best with the knowledge he had, God would do His part. He understood that God would provide all that was needed to carry out his responsibilities to family and employer.

At that moment, God became and remains his Jehovah Jireh! (God will provide)

The Lord's servant, the man's minister, had somehow gotten the message inside the man's head the importance of following the command to faithfully, *"bring the whole tithe into the storehouse* (the place where one is fed spiritual food), *so that there may be food in My (the Lord's) house and test Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts"* (Malachi 3: 10 *).



The man had already experienced by that time the blessings coming to anyone who will accept the challenge to follow God in the matter of regularly *"bringing the whole tithe into the storehouse"*

He knew that the LORD of hosts is obligated to keep His promise to “*open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows* (there is not room enough). The reader can read in verse 11 and 12 the promise of protection over the individual *and nation* daring to take the LORD of hosts at His Word!

God did His part; He never failed to keep His part of the agreement made that day many years ago in the hospital. Through good times and bad, and through lean years and bountiful ones, God enabled the man, despite moments of sinful lapses; to do the best he knows how to keep his end of the agreement. As the legal mind might say, the fulfilling of the LORD of hosts’ promise to the man is a *fait accompli*.

As the years passed and the man matured in his understanding he recognized that the promise to provide for his material needs also provided for spiritual needs and blessings.

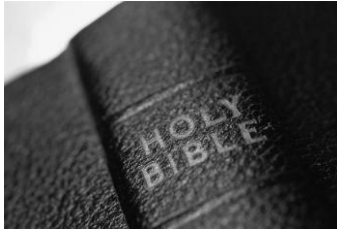
There are greater things in life than fulfilling material obligations. It is gratifying, with God’s help, to provide material things to family, friends, associates, other believers, fellow club members, etc. We likely all agree it is a privilege to share God’s material blessings with those of like mind.



At the same time, it is a great privilege to share God’s spiritual blessings. As God provides increased understanding of His Word, He would have us share our understanding with others. God has given us the tremendous privilege and responsibility of sharing what we know with others. It is an amazing thing to know that the Holy Spirit would speak through us if but stand back and let Him.

During the Exodus, the people received the miracle of manna (bread) rained down from heaven six days each week. They learned to collect their food within the camp. They found that God was willing to do His part. He provided only enough food so that the people would not be too full but also not hungry enough to want to steal. God provided the *“food that is their portion”*

The same principle is repeated in gospel writings. Jesus taught the people to ask God to *“give us this day our daily bread”*; enough for the day, for the present circumstance. For those with that have ears to hear, Jesus was talking about more than physical bread. He was inviting the people to ask God also for the daily portion on His Word that would be needed to get them through the day.



God would have us glean from His word the portion that we can use in our lives today to face the situation immediately in front of us. He would have us use the Word He provides to not only get us through, but also perhaps to encourage others along the way.

When we keep our part of the agreement in asking God for what we need every day, He will do His part and keep His promise to give us the physical and spiritual food that is our portion. God has never failed to do His part!

Comments by Harry Bain

* New American Standard Bible; i.e., NASB