

## **GOD PROVIDES AS A FATHER**

**John 1:12-13; Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 3:26; Matthew 7:7-11**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Whenever a person believes in Jesus Christ, immediately he/she is adopted into the family of God and becomes the recipient of God's personal care as a loving heavenly Father. God, being perfect, therefore His care is also perfect and complete. God watches over and cares for His children, providing all their needs.

### **I. GOD CARES FOR HIS CHILDREN**

*(1 Peter 5:6-7)*

1. Believers are to willingly be submissive to God's authority.
  - *1 Peter 1:6-9; 2:21-25*
  - Suffering is a training tool that God uses, as it causes more dependence upon God.
  - Pride gets in the way of submission and obedience as it is natural for a person to want to live by his/own ideas and solutions.
  - Believers must allow God to humble them through difficulties and even sufferings in life.
2. Believers learning how to cast their care totally upon the Lord is the basis for true submission to God.
  - Believers need to come to the point where they have placed their entire lives, burdens, concerns and fears into God's very capable hands, not taking matters into their own hands.
  - Saul is an example of taking matters into his own hands rather than trusting everything to God.
    - *1 Samuel 15-16*
  - David is an example of turning everything over to God and not taking matters into his own hands.
    - *1 Samuel 18:10-20*
3. Why is it so important for believers to submit everything into the hands of God?
  - Failing to trust God is in reality exalting one's own self, it is acting as if one cares more for him/her self than God does and that he/she can do what God cannot.
    - *Romans 8:32; 5:8-11*

### **II. AS A FATHER, GOD WILL PROVIDE EVERY NEED OF THE BELIEVER**

1. God is very concerned for every one of His redeemed children which of course includes every basic daily need.
  - *Philippians 4:19*
2. Jesus taught to not be anxious regarding one's daily needs.
  - *Matthew 6:25-34*
3. Believers being anxious is foolish because it is not considering his/her heavenly Father's loving care, knowledge of their needs and ability to meet whatever need they might have.
  - Worry is the result of failing to accept God's fatherly care.
  - The greatest priority for believers is spiritual matters.

### **III. BELIEVERS HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO GOD, THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER**

1. Although God knows His children's needs before they ask, believers (His children) do need to take their needs to their heavenly Father through prayer.
  - *Hebrews 4:16*
  - *1 Peter 5:7*

- *1 John 5:14-15*
  - *Philippians 4:6-8*
2. Although God already knows and He certainly cares about each of His children, He still wants to work in His children's lives through prayer. (*James 5:16*)
    - Prayer is a means of fellowship between God and His children.
    - Prayer is a sign/proof of His children's faith and dependence upon Him.
    - Prayer also helps focus one's heart on God and His purposes and His provision/care.
  3. Prayer is the means by which the believer confesses his/her sins, gives thanks and praise to the Lord God and to make his/her needs known specifically.
    - Sometimes God does not answer the believer's prayer as requested as it is not in accordance with God's will for that believer.
      - *Matthew 7:9-11*
      - *James 4:3*
      - *Matthew 7:7-8*
  4. Prayer is more than just asking God for something, it is also wanting to know/seeking God's direction and will and waiting on God to answer according to what is best for that believer.

#### **IV. PRAYER CAN BE HINDERED**

1. Having the wrong attitude toward the Holy Spirit can hinder prayer.
  - *John 4:22-23*
  - *Jude 20*
  - *Ephesians 6:18; 4:30*
  - *Psalms 66:18*
  - *1 John 1:9*
2. Having the wrong attitude toward God's Word can hinder prayer.
  - *Proverbs 28:9*
  - *John 5:17*
3. Not having faith in one's prayer can hinder prayer.
  - *Matthew 21:22*
  - *1 John 5:14-15*
  - *James 1:5-7*
  - *Hebrews 11:6*
4. Having the attitude of self-dependence can hinder prayer.
  - *James 4:2*
5. Not asking for the right reason, not considering what God thinks can hinder prayer.
  - *James 4:3;15*
  - *1 Corinthians 4:19*
  - *Matthew 6:10; 26:42*
6. Asking, then not waiting for God to answer one's prayer can hinder prayer.
  - *Luke 18:1*
  - *1 Samuel 27:1-3*
  - *Isaiah 40:31*
7. Having an unforgiving spirit toward others can hinder prayer.
  - *Mark 11:25-26*

8. Praying to impress others can hinder prayer.  
- *Matthew 6:5-8*
9. Praying in some ritualistic form with repetitions can hinder prayer.  
- *Matthew 6:7*  
- *1 Kings 18:26-29*  
- *Romans 10:2-3*
10. Family problems can hinder prayer.  
- *1 Peter 3:7*

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Of all the people on earth who are most blessed, it is Christians for they don't have to depend or rely upon their own wisdom, perception, abilities, etc. to face difficulties and problems that come up in their lives for they have almighty God, their heavenly Father to step in and help.
2. Believers in Jesus Christ are also Children of God and therefore God their heavenly Father looks after His Children in loving care and provides for their needs.
3. God's Children do have to go to their Heavenly Father in prayer and be ready to accept whatever God thinks is best and whatever He does or does not do.
4. Although believers are children of God and God is their Heavenly Father who wants only the best for them, sometimes there causes for their prayers to not be answered.
5. Christian, God loves you and wants to provide your necessities and to protect you from that which would harm you, but sometimes He allows discomfort and even suffering to come in order to strengthen you and help you to become more dependent upon Him.
6. If you have been having trouble getting God to hear you or having trouble in getting what you want from God, review how you have been praying and what you have been asking for.