

## How God Provides For Our Needs

### Part 1

*"The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." <sup>2</sup> Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil." <sup>3</sup> Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. <sup>4</sup> Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." <sup>5</sup> She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. <sup>6</sup> When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. <sup>7</sup> She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left." (2King 4:1-7)*

God is always there to help us, solve our problems and to provide for our daily needs. But God has principles we need to listen, heed and apply in our lives. In the above true story we have this poor widow whom she and her two sons were threatened to be slave by the creditor. But God intervened and solved their problem. From the above passage we can learn certain principles of how God would provide our needs.

**1- Never be in debt:** Even the husband of the widow was a man who fear God, he did not do well when he borrowed money and put his family and his children in danger. God provide for us; by sending us warning, that teaching us not to do certain things that will bring harm unto our lives.

**2- Express your problem to God and to His people:** The woman cried to God, as she opened her complain to Elisha, the man of God.

**3- God and His people are always to guide you and help you:** *Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you?* Elisha showed willingness to intervene to solve the problem of the woman and her two sons. We as church and people of God we need to show concern and care for those who are in trouble. Elisha was a good listener to the widow and understood well her problem. Before we can advice the people we need to listen well to the details of their problem.

**4- God helps us from what we have:** Elisha asked the widow *"Tell me, what do you have in your house?"* God's solution will arise from what we have in our lives. God will use the things that are in our hands. So always we need to think seriously of what we have and what God had placed in our lives and homes.

**5- Never think you have nothing at all:** The first expression of the widow and what she had is, *"Your servant has nothing there at all,"* But later on she realized what she had, *"except a little oil."* Don't look on what you don't have but look on what you have in your hand. Don't look to the empty part of the glass but to the filled part of it!

**6- The little of what you have God will use to solve your problem:** *"Except a little oil."* It might be little but is precious and valuable in God's hand and sight.

**7- "Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise." (Proverbs 19:20):** God's help to you will come into your life through the advice and the instruction that he is going to send to you. As God used Elisha to help and instruct the woman of what she needs to do, God will instruct you and will send to you his advice that will help you to solve your problem and to secure the future for you and your family.

**8- Your problem will start to be solved by receiving the right instructions:** Elisha gave the widow nothing from money or material things, but he gave her God's instructions in steps:

*"Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. <sup>4</sup> Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."* You must understand that the right advice is the key to solve your problem. Do not expect money, or to receive material things. What you need is in your hand and you need the correct instruction to use it. We as a church and servant of God we need to do the same,

- A- To give the people the right advice and what they need to do in steps and in clear way.
- B- To stand firm and not to be shaken; Elisha did not give her any money and did not pay her credit but gave the right advice.
- C- To have faith in God, that He will help His people and solve their problems when they obey His word and His instructions.
- D- To trust the church that God had placed you in; that what you receive advice is from God who is using His church to guide you out of your distress and solve your problem.

**9- Your problem will be solved when you obey the instructions clearly:** Truly the widow obeyed the instructions of Elisha and she found herself free from debt and still there is what is left to help her and sustain her living: *"<sup>5</sup> She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. <sup>6</sup> When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. <sup>7</sup> She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."* God had a good a plan for you to prosper you and not to harm you and to give you hope and future. The problem that you are facing now God will not only solve it but the solution that he will give you will sustain you for the rest of your life as you are willing to fully obey God's word to you.

**10- God's presence in your life is what you really need.** The little oil that was with the widow solved her problem. The oil is symbolic for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Once you accepted Christ then you are sealed with The Holy Spirit, *"<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory."* (Ephesians 1:13-14)

When you are in trouble then you need to invite and to allow The Holy Spirit to work in your life; you need to listen to Him and obey Him so that He will take you out from your dilemma.

**My Dear and Beloved:** *Reflect on the message and think about it in a way that will help you and direct you to solve your problem and takes you out from your struggle. Find out what God is speaking to you, then obey Him and do what He instructs you as you agree to pray.*

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal. Lord I will not put myself again in debt. Lord thank you for your instructions and what you advised me to do. Lord I commit myself to listen and do the instructions of yours knowing and having the faith that in obeying them there is great deliverance and relief and a secure future for me, my family and the people with me. I thank you and praise you for that in Jesus name, Amen.*