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Part 3 • PROVISION

Matthew 6:11 *Give us this day our daily bread.*

In the same way that the five-sided Pentagon is the center for our national defense, the five sided prayer pattern given by Jesus in **Matthew 6:5-15** and Luke 11:1-4 is our spiritual “command center.” It is a strategic plan to live life in fullness and victory!

Provision From a Supernatural Source

1. Physical and spiritual bread -- This part of the prayer pattern points to the time when Israel received their daily portion of miraculous “Manna” that fell each day from heaven, providing food throughout the 40 years in the wilderness. (Exodus 16) In John 6:35 Jesus referred to Himself as the true spiritual Manna from Heaven when the people asked Him to provide miraculous bread.
2. Provision is an area often attacked by our enemy the devil. Yet the Bible clearly states that God would never forsake us as we look to Him as our Source. (Matthew 6:25-34 *...But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*) As we endeavor to live that and learn to properly manage His provision we can begin to close the enemy’s access to our finances.

Provision and stewardship

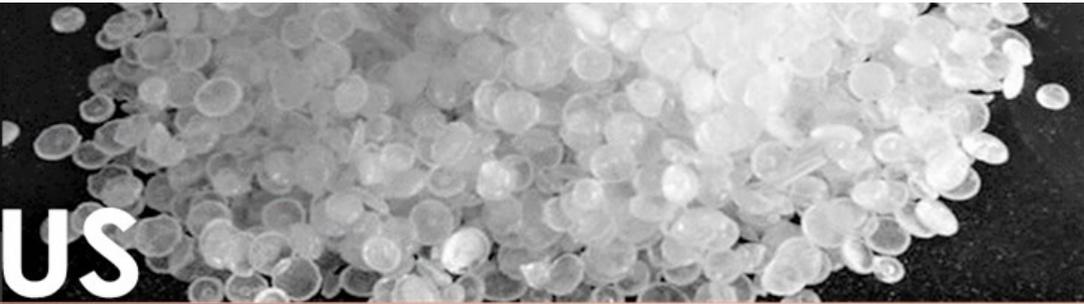
God views us as “stewards” over what He provides for us. It is the proper management of our possession in order to enhance God’s Kingdom through our lives. Here are a few principles to live by as we learn to stand in victory over our enemy...

1. **Until God is in control of my life, I’m out of control.**
 - Because his wealth controlled him, the rich young man could not obey Christ’s words to follow Him. Matthew 19:16-22 *When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.*
2. **Obedience to God’s principle of the Tithe** (“first fruit”) brings multiplied results and protects our assets from the devourer! (Scan the code to read about the blessing of the Tithe)
 
 - Malachi 3:10-11 *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,... Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”*
 - Proverbs 3:9-10 *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the Firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*
3. **Contentment**, a powerful weapon of spiritual warfare, deals with our present resources and our trust in a Supernatural God.
 - In regard to being content, Paul stated in Philippians 4:10-13, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-10 *...For the love of money (greed and discontent) is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
4. **We are rivers, not reservoirs.** God gives to us what He knows will flow through us.
 - Proverbs 11:25 *A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*
 - A cheerful giver is excited to see God’s abundance flow through them! 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Action: This part of the prayer pattern reveals my dependency upon Him and brings glory to God as He supplies my need.

- Be in the will of God concerning my finances.
- Pray for a hunger for God’s Word in me and in the Church.
- Ask Him to use my resources for the Kingdom and to have eternal fruit!

GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISION



Israel in the wilderness numbered approximately 3 million people, about two-thirds the size of Rhode Island, or roughly 750 square miles. **God miraculously provided food and water each day!**

- **1,500 tons of Manna per day.** One freight train two miles long costing over \$6 million a day!
- **11 million gallons of water per day** or one freight train with tank cars 1,800 miles long.
- **God took care of them 14,600 days** (40 years) with over 58 million tons of food and 160 billion gallons of water!

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.