

SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Fifty-Nine Years" Since October 21, 1961
1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

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Please Join Us As We Pray For:

All of Our Military, Their Family's & All the Civilian Workers in The Middle East, Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, and Brother Philip Thornsberry, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Buckie Thompson, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Tyrell Loyd, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Lee & Mary Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ronnie Henderson Jr. & Children, Ricky Henderson and Family, Velma Hammond, Don Hammond and Families, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Gina and Kirk, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Diane Thomas, Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Davis, Vickie Adkins, Shirly King - Son David – and family, Brother Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Christel and her daughter, David Henderson and Wife, Hailey Renee McManus, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Susan McCool Swiggart, Brother Medic and Sister Marilyn, Brother Dan Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

Pastors Thoughts:

Trying to Understand God's Provision For Me.

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." Philippians 4:12

As a child of God, we must learn that we serve The Sovereign God, The God that does as He chooses in our life. Our destiny is not in our selves, our destiny is in God's hands. The Psalmist wrote these words, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."* Psalms 37:23 The word "ordered means - to be erect or to upright or to appoint – let us liken it to erecting a building, a building does not build itself, but someone makes all the choices for the building. Likewise, is our life, and God is the builder setting our life in place one step at a time all the way to the end. Listen to the Psalmist again, *"My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. (3) He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. (8) The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."* Psalms 121:2 - 3, 8 It is only our limited understanding and our limits in life that causes us not to rightly understand this. However, God has no limits, God is Omnipresent and Omniscience and there is nothing He cannot do, all things are absolutely in His Sovereign hands. Sure, we cannot properly understand this, we are limited in everything, therefore understanding God and His ways are impossible. Concluding that our understanding is a gift from God through the power of the Holy Spirit that we have any understanding.

The word "provision" means - the action of providing or supplying something for use – and here it is your life that God is providing or supplying. Sometimes Christians makes the mistake of likening God to man, but God is not a man nor is He anything like a man. God is an eternal Being that was once the only being in existence, and in time He created all things including man. Therefore, God has the right to do as He please with His own creation. We have no rights over God's ordained will for us because God is the Master Builder of our life. *"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy."* Romans 9:16 Therefore, we must learn to accept what God has ordained for our life and continue to ask the Lord for help, mercy, grace, and guidance. Some folks want us to think that in life we have power, that life's choices are within our own strength, but believe them not, God has ordered our steps in life, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: "* We live, we move, and we have our being only by His grace and mercy. Acts 17:28 *"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."* God has made us what we are and we should be

content in what our life is in Christ.

God's provisions for us are His ordained will in our life and sometimes it is hard for the believer to understand what or why God is doing something. Again, this comes down to a revelation from God through the Holy Spirit, we only understand what God allows us too. Our attitude and reactions in life depend on how much God allows us to understand of what is happening. If we understand the word "contentment" we learn through the experience of our biblical studies and life to trust God's will for us and be content in whatever state God puts us. Paul wrote in verse 12 "*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*" Sometimes these things happening in our life brings us high and comfortable and sometimes it puts us in desperate need, but our faith in God's Sovereignty will allow us to be content. In verse 18 Paul wrote, "*But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.*" Paul found his contentment in the spiritual resources abundantly provided by Christ. Because Paul knew that whatever he needed, whatever he had, whatever was happening, that God has supplied all his needs. "*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*" Verse 19

Folks, it is about understanding God and His way He has elected for each of us, learning to be content in where He puts us, and understanding whether we are up or down in life, God will never leave us or forsake us allowing us to be content. Hebrews 13:5 "*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*" 1 Timothy 6:6 - 8 "*But godliness with contentment is great gain. (7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (8) And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."*

Quotes from John Bunyan (1628–1688)

"Grace stripped You of Your glory.

Grace made You poor and despicable.

Grace made You bear such burdens of sin, such burdens of sorrow, such burdens of God's curse as are unspeakable."

"It gave me no pleasure to see people drink in my opinions if they seemed ignorant of Jesus Christ and the value of being saved by Him. Sound conviction for sin, especially the sin of unbelief, and a heart set on fire to be saved by Christ, with a strong yearning for a truly sanctified soul—this was what delighted me; those were the souls I considered blessed."

"No child of God sins to that degree as to make himself incapable of forgiveness."

"Indeed this is one of the greatest mysteries in the world—namely, that a righteousness that resides with a Person in Heaven should justify me, a sinner on earth."

"To lay hold of and receive the gospel by a true and saving faith is an act of the soul that has been made a new creature, which is the workmanship of God. Whoever receives the grace that is offered in the gospel ... they must be quickened by the power of God, their eyes must be opened, their understandings must be illuminated, their ears must be unstopped, their hearts must be circumcised, their wills must be rectified, and the Son of God revealed to them."

Church News:

Pastor Johnson will be speaking at a Bible Conference at the Grace Bible Baptist Church in Denham Springs, La. on May 28, 29, 30 This will include him being gone on Sunday the 30th. This will be his last Sunday scheduled conference this year.