

God Provides More than Enough

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation (Psalm 68:19, *KJV*).

Scripture: Psalm 68:17-19, 24-35

Song: “His Grace Is Enough for Me”

While I grew up, it was our family tradition to hit the buffet every Sunday after church. I clearly remember standing on tippy-toes, straining to see a scrumptious display of toppings on the salad bar. I was a professional when it came to making a salad! The secret was simple: Just stack anything and everything onto a big pile of leafy greens; throw on a smattering of cucumbers over here with a few tomatoes over there; top it all off with a big, messy splatter of ranch dressing . . . and you have yourself a masterpiece! My eyes were usually bigger than my tummy, so I always had more than enough!

David praises the Lord, declaring that He “daily loadeth us with benefits.” With musical celebration David genuinely thanks God for providing mercy, protection, and salvation. God bore His people’s burdens for them by building them up to face difficulties and by faithfully providing more than enough.

We can be thankful knowing that our Lord and Savior always provides for us. He walks with us, never allowing us to bear our burdens alone. We are His masterpiece, loaded daily with His precious love.

Father, thank You for always being present to bear our burdens with us. Your love is certainly more than enough. In Jesus’ name, amen.

May 1–7. **Kellie M. Everett** lives in Tennessee with her husband and two children. She enjoys life as a stay-at-home mom and community volunteer.

Our Helpful Reminder

[Jesus said,] “The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26).

Scripture: John 14:15-27

Song: “Come, Holy Spirit”

My grandmother was a spirited, gifted, God-fearing woman with the sweetest little giggle. Before breakfast, I would sit on the kitchen floor, laughing and singing along with her as she flipped bacon in her trusty iron skillet. Her menu consisted of scrambled eggs, biscuits, and bacon, complete with a dollop of homemade jelly. I can still picture the hem of her housecoat swirling about as she set the kitchen table.

Alzheimer’s stole my grandmother’s memory, but it did not erase her knowledge of her precious Lord and Savior. All the days of her life, she lifted praises to Heaven and recited reassuring words of Scripture—words that many heard and so came to know the Lord.

Jesus’ words are reassuring as He announces the arrival of “the Advocate” (John 14:26). He comforts the disciples with an explanation of how the Holy Spirit would assist with their ministry. Through Him, the guidance and instruction they needed would continue, and they would always remember everything they’d learned from Jesus.

We have reassurance in Jesus’ words today as well! As we minister to a broken world, the Holy Spirit is present with and within us. He fills our hearts with love, guidance, and remembrance of all things we have learned so that we too may bring others to Him.

Father, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily walk. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Awaiting His Return

[Jesus said,] “You are filled with grief. . . . But . . . it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you” (John 16:6-7).

Scripture: John 16:1-15

Song: “When We All Get to Heaven”

For working parents with preschool-age children, the morning routine can be difficult as time rolls around for the day care drop-off. All may seem fine on the car ride there. Even the walk to the front door may be uneventful. Things can be going off without a hitch until . . . the wave goodbye. That’s when the volcano of tears is most likely to erupt! Although a parent’s departure might feel distressing early on, developing socially in another safe environment can bring new strength and confidence to a child’s experience. Children also learn that Mom or Dad will be back.

Jesus recognized the disciples’ sorrow upon hearing news of His departure, and He comforted them. This separation would be a good thing because it opened the way for the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts. If Jesus did not go away, the Holy Spirit could not come.

As God’s children, we can be assured as well: we are never alone because the Holy Spirit resides within our hearts. He provides much-needed help and comfort as we await Christ’s return to bring us at last to our heavenly home!

Father, thank You for Your assurance that all who trust in You for salvation will be brought home to You one day (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our Shelter and Eternal Home

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge (Psalm 16:1).

Scripture: Psalm 16

Song: “A Shelter in the Time of Storm”

One sunny afternoon, my kiddos were outside playing with our big German shepherd, Hank. I was keeping an eye on things from inside while I washed dishes. When Hank started barking, I was immediately alarmed! This was not his normal, playful dog “chit-chat” with the Chihuahua next door, nor was it his harmless obligatory warning to the mailman. His tone was harsh and threatening, his growl low with a fierce rumble. He definitely meant business! On further inspection, I saw that our new neighbor was stopping by to introduce herself and her children. My kiddos saw no danger with this friendly interaction, but Hank saw the stranger as a threat to his family. With his protective instincts, Hank always remains alert and on the lookout for any potential evil lurking beyond his fence. He’s always braced for action, prepared to maintain security on his turf.

David clearly trusted God to keep him safe in life. He described God as place of refuge, the one who kept him secure and steady. And David also saw God as his eternal dwelling place.

Until we reach Heaven, we reside in a dangerous world, yet we have peace knowing we are safe in the arms of our Heavenly Father. He loves us more than we know and protects us from our lurking enemy (1 Peter 5:8).

Father, thank You for guarding us, body and soul, against peril. You are our refuge, our eternal dwelling place. In Jesus’ name, amen.

God Makes All Things Possible

What seemed to be tongues of fire . . . came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2:3-4).

Scripture: Acts 2:1-13

Song: “God Is Able”

Touring the downtown area of a big city can be a loud experience! Locals rush to and fro while distracted tourists take photos and sightsee. The sounds of music and laughter intertwine with construction and traffic clamor. For anyone immersed in all the commotion, it doesn't take long for the boisterous sounds of big-city life to start running together, and all that noise can make it nearly impossible to hear or be heard in conversation.

The apostles faced a major communication roadblock. They were responsible for taking the gospel message to the world—to people whose languages they could not speak or understand (Matthew 28:18-20). Such communication would seem impossible. But nothing is impossible with God! While people from all over the Roman Empire were visiting Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks (Pentecost), God filled the apostles with His Holy Spirit, granting them the ability to communicate in many different languages so that visitors were able to hear and understand their message.

When roadblocks seem impossible to overcome, our God has the power to move mountains (Job 9:5), to raise dry bones to life (Ezekiel 37:1-10), and to fill us with His own Spirit (Acts 1:8). God is ever-present in our daily lives and makes all things possible for service in His kingdom.

Father, help us to remember that nothing blocks You from accomplishing Your plan. In Jesus' name, amen.

Power in Your Name

God raised [Jesus] from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him (Acts 2:24).

Scripture: Acts 2:14-28

Song: “Hear the Bells Ringing”

“Water bear” is an interesting nickname for the tardigrade. It looks nothing like a bear from what I can see, but apparently it walks like one. It’s a teeny-tiny, eight-legged, segmented micro-animal that looks something like a roly-poly (or pill bug) with a giant row of sharp teeth. It can live in freshwater or the sea, and I’ve been told a tardigrade can live 10 years without water and can survive after being frozen. Scientists have even put these critters into outer space, directly exposing them to harsh conditions, and most returned unfazed. They can also withstand 1,000 times more radiation than other animals. It would appear that death is no worry for the tardigrade.

Death was truly no obstacle for God. He raised Jesus from the dead, making the name of Jesus the most precious of all time. He is our Savior, the source of our redemption. In His name—by His atoning death, burial, and resurrection—our names are written in the Lamb’s book of life (Revelation 21:27). Those who are in Him have been promised eternal life!

The grief associated with death is a burden we all carry in this life. But we have a secure hope, knowing that death does not have the final word for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Father, we praise Your mighty name with joy, knowing that You have promised us an imperishable life through Your Son. In Jesus’ name, amen.

On the Road Together

Those who accepted [Peter's] message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:41-42).

Scripture: Acts 2:29-42

Song: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

Thunderous rumbling can be heard long before any procession of chrome-appointed motorcycles arrives! Watching the riders is mesmerizing as they move in and out of traffic and down the road in perfect sync with one another. For safety, most groups travel in staggered formation. The "lead" is responsible for setting the pace, keeping the group on course, and identifying road hazards. The "sweep" is the last rider, helping stragglers who may need medical or mechanical assistance. Together, the group's lead and sweep provide guidance, protection, and safety, allowing everyone else to relax and enjoy the ride.

Early Christians were excited but also needed guidance and care on their new adventure! The apostles provided leadership and protection as their numbers grew. Supportive fellowship with one another was also a key to success as new believers learned, prayed, and broke bread together.

With today's communication technology, the reach of Christian fellowship includes worldwide possibilities. However, regardless of such drastic changes, our God's faithful character and Word remain unchanged. And our connection with fellow believers is still a vital part of our life together as Christians (Hebrews 10:25).

Father, thank You for providing opportunities for fellowship near and far. In Jesus' name, amen.