

## Our Provision is the Father's Priority

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Food is important to us in our society today. As a matter of fact, you might say that of us are (ahem) heavyweights in this area. Throughout the year and especially during this holiday season, many of our social events center around or involve food and eating. Count the number of food or diet commercials that come up when you are watching television and you can tell that we are a nation focused on eating or taking off what we have eaten. You won't find books in our stores on surviving starvation, but you'll find shelves loaded with cookbooks and books on losing weight.

The food network on television has become very popular with viewers. Why? Because it's personal, and entertaining, and the kitchen seems to be one place where all of us have some experience. Every house and every living establishment has one. Every one of us has a history in the kitchen of some form or another – whether we can cook or not. From our early years, we learned that it was in the kitchen that our basic needs were supplied.

In God's kitchen, the table is long. The chairs are many, the food is ample, and the invitation is always open. You'll never find His kitchen closed, and the one who provides the food is the one who prepares the meal.

Understand that the kitchen in God's house is no restaurant. You don't eat and then pay; you eat and give thanks. It's not a place to visit and leave, it's a place to visit and chat. We don't swagger into His presence and demand delicacies, nor do we sit outside the door and hope for crumbs. We simply take our place at the table and gladly trust Him to, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Think back on your life. Perhaps there may have been times in our lives when there was no feast, but at least there was bread. And many times our needs have been more than met. Then there are those times when our plates run over. God keeps bringing more food and we keep loosening our belts. There are times when we literally push back from the table, amazed at God's blessing.

In the school of life, God is both the teacher and the cook. That means that there are also those days when we have to eat our vegetables. We have to eat what's good for us, even if it might be hard for us to swallow. Our daily bread could be tears or sorrow or discipline. Our portion may include adversity as well as opportunity. All are important. God knows our needs. Ultimately, we trust that they are for our own good.

Our provision is the Father's priority.

We are like the high school senior who decides to go to college and then learns the cost of tuition. He runs to his father and pleads, "I'm sorry to ask so much, Dad, but I have nowhere else to go. I want to go to college and I don't have a penny."

The father puts his arm around his son and smiles and says, "Don't worry, son, the day you were born I began saving for your college education. I've already provided for your tuition."

The boy made the request only to find the father had already met it. The same happens with us. We pray for our needs only to find our prayers already answered. "Give us this day our daily bread." It's a statement of trust. Trust in one who will provide.