

Christ Our Guarantee In Meeting Our Needs

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And my God will meet all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus – Philippians 4:19.

One of God's names, "Jehovah Jireh", revealed by God Himself to Abraham (Gen 22:14) speaks of Him as the One who will provide for all our needs. He will provide for all our needs of those who have come into a personal relationship with Him. This is certain. The resources of God are not from an earthly source but are His own "glorious riches" and our guarantee in receiving them is "in Christ Jesus". In Christ Jesus all our needs are met and provided for.

As believers we enjoy certain privileges just being "in Christ Jesus".

Christ Jesus – Our Union with Him

When God says He will "meet all our needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus", He means we need to come into a relationship with Him. We need to have fellowship with Him. "In Christ Jesus" indicates our position in Him, that is, our union with Christ. This union opens the way for our needs to be met.

The Vine and the Branches

This union is very clearly illustrated by Jesus in John 15:5-8 when He showed the relationship between the vine and the branches: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch which is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into a fire and burned. If you remain with me and my words remain in you, ask what ever you wish, and it will be given to you. This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

The only way for the branches to grow and to bear fruit is to abide in the vine. As long as we abide in and have fellowship with Jesus, our union will bring the blessings of God into our lives. This union is possible because of the finish work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We cannot do anything to bring about this union. Jesus goes on to say in John 15:13-14, 16 that "greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go bear fruit that will last." The Christian life is a union with the person Jesus Christ. This union is made possible by God because of His love for you.

Our Union – A Gift

This union with Jesus is a gift from God. God links Himself with us through Jesus. Gifts cannot be earned. Nothing we do can merit God's blessings. The apostle Paul tells us the reason – "so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him boast in the Lord" 1 Cor 1:29-31.

"Praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. To the praises of his glorious grace, which he has freely given to us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" – Eph. 1:3, 4, 6, 7.

Our righteousness is established by Christ who indwells us by His Spirit. We are therefore in Christ Jesus and this enables God to meet all our needs. On the cross, Jesus has done the work to establish this union and this union "we live and move and have our being... we are his offspring" Acts 17:28.

We cannot make ourselves worthy enough for God. We can only be made worthy through God's grace in Christ Jesus. This then brings us into an inheritance.

In Christ Jesus – Our Inheritance

When we repent of our sins and accept Jesus as our personal Saviour, we are born into the Kingdom of God. Inheritance comes through birth. This is affirmed by Paul in Romans 8:15-17: "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you receive the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry: "Abba, Father." The Spirit

himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God, and co-heirs of Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

When we are united with Christ, we have an inheritance. Our inheritance makes it possible for God to help us live right: "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through this he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" II Peter 1:3,4. In Christ, God has made everything available to us so that we may be able to live godly lives.

There are only two unions – in Christ or in Adam. It is one or the other. If we choose to live in Christ, we are assured of God's divine enablement but if we choose to live otherwise it will lead to death: "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" 1 Cor 15:22.

In Adam we die. What does this mean? "As for you, you are dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath" Eph 2:1-3.

We were living after the way of the world – under the wrath of God till God Himself pulled us out from our state of alienation from God. We cannot become better to get to God so He came down to save us and after having done that to equip us with every possible means to live victoriously as a Christian.

Our relationship and union with Christ also gives us a right to enjoy the privileges that come with our union with Him.

Our privileges as Christians are based upon our union with Christ. It is in this union that all our needs can be met. Jesus Himself stressed its importance when He prayed for us to live in this union continually. He said: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am with you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me. May they be brought in complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" John 17:20-23.

Jesus prayed that we might be one in Him because He knows that we can have the correct perspective of ourselves and the things around us when we are united in Him. This unity makes us sons of God who can rightly inherit all the blessings that are in Him.

However, for us to enjoy our privileges as the sons of God we need to obey God. Jesus set forth this condition in John 15:10 when he said: "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in my love." Obedience is the key to our full enjoyment of these privileges. In other words, our disobedience to His word can deprive us of these privileges. Then, we need to repent of our sins so that the relationship can be restored.

When we have come into a personal relationship with Christ and obey Him, we have the assurance of God's help, provision and privileges. Our guarantee that all our needs will be met is only in Christ. God delights to meet all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

(All verses quoted in the above text are in the New International Version)