

CHURCH NEWS

AN INSPIRING MOMENT WITH

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Divine Provision

A. T. Pierson gave the following account: "Supposing you had one thousand acres of land and someone approached you and made an offer to buy your farm. You agree to sell the land, except for one acre right in the center, with provisions for a right of way. 'Do you know,' he continued, that the law would allow you to have access to that one, lone spot in the middle of that thousand



acres? You could build a road all across the remainder of that farm to get to that small plot of ground. And so it is with the Christian who makes less than a one-hundred-percent surrender to God. You can be sure that the devil will make an inroad across that person's life to reach the unsundered portion and, as a result, his testimony and service will be marred and have little effect upon others" [The Evangel 37-38 (1972): 19].

Philippians 4 communicates to us that joy does not come from physical circumstances. The joy of the Lord is received from a life wholly committed to Him, and thus relying upon his divine provision and strength in our lives. Joy in all life circumstances comes from the Lord because He supplies all our needs "according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." God grants his power to complete

responsibilities (4:10-14). Believers do not have the prerogative to claim inadequacy to complete responsibilities. The

objective is to accept responsibility, and rejoice in the Lord by trusting in Him to provide the strength needed to accomplish the responsibilities in life. Secret initiation rites were common to Greek and Roman religions, and some religions and philosophies boasted that they possessed knowledge that is not

commonly known. The believer has a different kind of disclosure, which is dependence upon Christ. Stoicism was a pervasive philosophy in ancient Greece and within the Roman world; it emphasized an individual's control of their emotions. Stoics relied upon their personal will to achieve contentment. The Bible denies that individuals have such personal inner strength; rather, fortitude is derived from the Lord Jesus abiding within the believer (John 15:1-11). When the Christian abides in Christ, he or she can be content (without any regard for circumstances).

Whatever the Lord God requires you to do, He will supply the power to succeed. Whatever gift God grants to you, He will grant the ability to exercise that spiritual endowment. God's gifting is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the life of the

The Ten Commandments

Exodus Chapter 20

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
2. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the

sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

believer. The impasse between the flesh and the Spirit can be overcome by walking according to the Spirit.

"Walk" is a metaphor for one's manner of living. To "walk" in the Spirit means consciously depending upon the Holy Spirit so He will empower my actions and determination. Consequently, it will be possible to defy "the things of the flesh" and fulfill "the requirement of the Law," which is to heed God's will (Rom 8:1-14; Eph 5:18-21). To walk in the Spirit is to live intentionally relying upon God to empower me as I persevere "to do good." As long as we heed the Holy

Spirit's leading, which is God's work in creating a resistance to those things that are contrary to his will and purpose, we will be empowered by God (cf. Rom 8:5-6). One will not have unlimited power to do whatever he or she desires; rather, God will grant one the enablement to do all things in the context of his holy and perfect will. The Christian life does have difficulties (cf. John 16:33), and it is impossible to gain God's approval in our lives, unless we acquire the power to live in accordance with his will. God provides strength through the belief and practice of biblical truth.

Esquire Fashion Scripture of the Week

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts

Proverbs 21:2

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