

## Rely on God's Resources (5): His Provision

**Romans 8:32** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>32</sup> *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

**Philippians 4:19** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

## Introduction

Let me begin my sermon by unpacking the meaning of Romans 8:32.

**Romans 8:32** (Ask congregation to underline—*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not, along with him, all things?*)

***He who did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will he not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?*** This verse reminds us of the truth that while salvation is freely given to us, it came at the highest cost to God. He did not spare His own Son to save us. Our redemption was not an afterthought—it was a deliberate, deeply sacrificial act. It was carefully planned and executed in God's time and in His ways. God did not take it lightly; it required the life of His own Son, Jesus. And because of that, we can know with certainty how precious we are in His eyes—so much so that He willingly gave what was most dear to Him to rescue us from our sin.

***But gave Him up for us all:*** Pause and consider that for a moment. If you were faced with a choice between your own child and everything else in the world, which would you choose? Naturally, any parent would choose their child. No one would give up their son or daughter for anything. Yet God did. He gave up His Son—because He loves us that much. So, let us live in constant gratitude for the gift of our salvation. I know I am eternally grateful for what God has done for me through Christ. Let us never lose sight of this truth: we are God's children—deeply loved, immeasurably valued, and forever His.

***How will he not:*** *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?* Consider the logic here. The logic of this verse is both clear and compelling: If God didn't spare His own son to save us from our sins, why would He not give the rest of the things we truly need? J. I. Packer, the theologian, puts it in his book, *Knowing God*, like this: "No good thing will be withheld from us" (Packer, p. 264, *Knowing God*).

In essence, Paul is declaring here, *it is impossible for God not to do this for us, because His very nature is to give*. Not sparingly, but generously. God lavishes on us in Christ everything that is good. His love is so deep that He gives not only to the righteous, but even

sends sun and rain upon the wicked (Matthew 5:45). This is the heart of our Father in Heaven: overflowing with grace, always providing what is good, and never holding back what is needed for His children.

**Along with him:** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, **along with him**, graciously give us all things? All the things we receive from God come along in a package—that package is the Son of God.

E.g., A Story of **Portrait of a Son:** A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection from Rembrandt's to Van Gogh's. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Vietnam War broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died while saving the life of another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, around Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved the lives of many men that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart, and he was killed instantly. He often talked about you and your love for art."

The young man held out his package. "I know this isn't much, and I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would've wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son. The father was drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for it. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me, it's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time a visitor came, he directed them to the painting of his son, recounting the story, before taking them to see any other works of art.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of all his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited to see the vast collections of Picassos and Raphaels the man had amassed and having the opportunity to bid on the collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "Who will start the bidding on the picture of the son? Who will bid for the son?" There was silence. Then a voice from the back of the room said, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one."

But the auctioneer persisted. "Who will start the bidding, \$100, \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Rembrandts and Van Gogh's. Get on with the real bids!"

But still the auctioneer continued. "The son, the son! Who will take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man. "I'll give \$10 for the picture."

Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who'll give \$20?"

"Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters!" "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?" The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded his gavel.

"Going once, going twice, sold for \$10." A man on the front row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection." The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over."

"What about the paintings?" "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the valuable paintings. The man who took the son gets everything."

God gave his Son 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, his message is, "The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?" because, you see, whoever takes the Son, gets everything! --Author unknown ([http://www.crystalreflections.com/stories/story\\_130.htm](http://www.crystalreflections.com/stories/story_130.htm))

**All things:** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us **all things**? Mind you that all things never mean to be plethora of material possessions.

E.g., J.I. Packer: "The passion for possessions has to be cast out of us in order to let the "all things" in. **For this phrase has to do with knowing and enjoying God, and not with anything else** (bolded for emphasis). The meaning of "he will give us all things" can be put thus: one day we shall see that nothing—literally nothing—which could have increased our eternal happiness has been denied us, and that nothing—literally nothing—that could have reduced that happiness has been left with us." (p. 270, Knowing God).

Here, all things include, but are not limited to 1) God's calling us to be His children, 2) His justification that made us righteous before the Holy God because of Christ's redemption, and 3) His commitment to sanctify us into the Christ-like image for His kingdom, and 4) His promise to have us in His presence for eternity.

Furthermore, the "all things" God gives are not merely what we think are good, but what He knows to be best. We might settle for hotdogs and hamburgers, while God has filet mignon in mind. We may be content with a simple cottage, but God may be preparing a palace. His goodness always exceeds our imagination.

J. I. Packer reminds us: “If God denies us something, it is only in order to make room for one or other of the things he has in mind” (ibid.). A personal example: in 2012, I applied for the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal program that would allow me to take a three month off in 2013 for renewal of mind and heart. Then, I was denied. I was greatly disappointed—but looking back, I see clearly that had it been approved, I wouldn’t have been able to come to Manahawkin congregation in 2013. God had something far better in store for me.

**Philippians 4:19** (Underline all, needs, and riches)

**All:** “And my God will meet **all** your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus—The original Greek says, **every** need: spiritual, mental, emotional, financial, and physical. God’s provision covers the full spectrum of our lives. Be cautious not to buy into the world’s lie that our deepest needs are only physical or material. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 4:4, “Man cannot live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

**Needs:** And my God will meet all your **needs** according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus- Notice the word here is **needs** not wants. It is a vital distinction. It would be foolish of us to believe that God grants us anything and everything we desire. Never think or treat God as a genie in the bottle. In His infinite wisdom and love, He doesn’t promise to fulfill every desire or whim. Instead, our Father provides what is truly necessary for our growth, our well-being, and our journey with Him.

**Riches:** And my God will meet all your needs according to the **riches** of his glory in Christ Jesus. Consider the vastness of God’s riches—He is the Creator and Owner of all things in the universe. Will He ever run out His supply for our needs? This verse is Paul’s enduring testimony— it is mine as well. May God help each of us to live in a way that proves this truth: that God is faithful, that He provides, and that our lives demonstrate His generous, unfailing provision.

Amen.