

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Acts 18:3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. 4And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

Paul was a hard worker; both naturally and spiritually. Sometimes ministers need to work with their own hands to support themselves.

Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. 2And **he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.** 3And he said unto them, "Take nothing for *your* journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece." 4"And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart." 5"And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them." 6And **they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.**

Mark 6:7 And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; 8And **commanded them that they should take nothing for *their* journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in *their* purse:** 9But *be* shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. 10And he said unto them, "In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place." 11"**And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them.** Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

As ministers our work is confined to simply preach His word and heal the sick. We are not to be concerned with provisions for the journey. Jesus told His disciples to find a worthy place to stay and minister from that residence.

Luke 10:9 "And **heal the sick that are therein,** and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."

Offerings and Love Gifts

1Cor 9:7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or **who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?** 8Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? 9For it is written in the law of Moses, **Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn.** Doth God take care for oxen?

1Cor 9:13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? ¹⁴Even so hath the Lord ordained that **they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.**

1Tim 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, "**The labourer is worthy of his reward.**"

It is quite within the boundaries of the Word of God for ministers to receive offerings that will be used for their daily necessities. Just as a workman receives wages for his labour, so should the man of God.

GOD'S PROVISION

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. **For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**

This scripture is clear on the issue of giving, however it is not just about the giving of money. When ministers give themselves to the work of the ministry, God will bless them. (Luk 6:38)

1Kin 17:8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, ⁹Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which *belongeth* to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman *was* there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. ¹¹And as she was going to fetch *it*, he called to her, and said, **Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.** ¹²And she said, *As* the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I *am* gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. ¹³And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go *and* do as thou hast said: **but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.** ¹⁴For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day *that* the LORD.

MISUNDERSTANDNGS

Sometimes it is reasonable to expect that our needs be met by others, especially if we have been invited for special meetings or as a conference speaker. However, God expects us to live in a manner that reflects that truly our faith is towards God.

We must learn the characteristics of faith from the word of God Look at what Abram did (Gen 14:22-23) Ministers of the gospel should look to God, not to man.

Gen 14:22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, **I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD**, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, **23** That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that **I will not take any thing that is thine**, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

1Cor 9:1 **Am I not an apostle?** am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? **2**If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: **for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.** **3**Mine answer to them that do examine me is this, **4**Have we not power to eat and to drink? **5**Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and *as* the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? **6**Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working? **7****Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?**

1Cor 9:14 **Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.** **15**But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for *it were* better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void. **16**For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! **17****For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward:** but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me. **18**What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel. **19**For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. **20**And unto the Jews I became as a **Jew**, that I might gain the Jews;

2Cor 11:7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? **8****I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.** **9**And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and **in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.** **10**As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

2Cor 12:11 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: **for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.** **12**Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in **all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.** **13**For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except *it be* that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong. **14**Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for

the parents, but the parents for the children. 15And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

GOD WILL MEET EVERY NEED

Deu 2:7 For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee; **thou hast lacked nothing.**

1Kin 17:6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and **he drank of the brook.**

1Kin 17:16 *And the barrel of meal wasted not,* neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

Matt 14:15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. 16But Jesus said unto them, "They need not depart; give ye them to eat." 17And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.....

Matt 14:20 And **they did all eat,** and were filled...

Phil 4:19 But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We must always be mindful that God will meet the need, even if we lack luxury items.