

I Kings 17:7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him (Elijah): ⁹ “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

Genesis 41:25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ...

...²⁹ Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, ³⁰ but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. ³¹ The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. ³² The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

Keys to understanding Miracles of Provision:

1. You must understand God

- a. Not only is God the only God, He is the God of no limitations

Luke 2 God said to Mary “For nothing is impossible with God”.

Isaiah 40 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him... ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? **Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?**

2. God provides just because he loves us

John 3:16 salvation is God’s greatest provision for us. God’s salvation is about a relationship that we can have with him. God salvation is about a pathway to a better life on earth. This is a pathway of peace, and joy and direction and hope.

3. God provides for us as we follow him and take on His purposes for our lives.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things **God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.** ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

4. God provides for our needs, not our wants.

Reference to Prosperity Gospel - <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/october/benny-hinn-costi-uncle-prosperity-preaching-testimony.html>

God answers prayer by through saying “Yes, No or Wait”.

Why would God not bring a miracle of provision?

1. Disobedience – God may not be answering my need to provision because of disobedience.

- Am I in sin? If I am disobeying God and ignoring it, I should not expect He will provide.
- Am I living for myself? I should not expect God to answer prayers of provision if I am living for myself. If He is not the Lord as I have claimed and I am not really living my life committed to Him, I should not expect Him to do miracles of provision.
- Are my finances in God's hands? Do I pray about the things I buy? Are my prayers like " God please bless me while I get this bigger big screen TV"? Or do I ask God if I should be buying the bigger TV in the first place? Has God ever convicted you of taking a lesser trip or vacation or buying a lesser toy and giving the difference to a person in need or a ministry which is needing help? Has God ever told you to give something up, in order to help someone else or so that something can be supported? Do you give out of sacrifice or do you give out of convenience? This is such a big subject, that we will come back to it later.

2. Timing – God may not answer because of timing. My prayer may be according to His will, but something is blocking the path to the answer

- Is God up to something significant and I need to wait until these things are taken care of? (This might be tied to the church or people around me)
- Is God developing my character? (James 1 - faith, perseverance and wisdom)

3. Faith – God may not be answering because I do not believe in His ability to provide.

- Do I believe God can take care of this need? How big is my God?

4. Prayer – God may not be answering because of the lack of prayer.

- Do I need to pray about it? Should I ask others to pray with me about this?

5. Satan – God may not be answering because Satan is blocking this miracle of provision.

- Daniel 10 - Daniel was asking for provision of wisdom. But as he was praying, there was a demonic authority blocking the path for the answer. Daniel prayed and fasted 21 days and his persistence in prayer broke the stronghold and the answer was given

6. A different answer – There are times when God does not answer because He has a better miracle of provision.

2 final statements:

Be careful to not blame God for his provision which you shoved through because of your own selfish desires, or unwillingness to go before God.

When tempted to think, God does not bring miracles of provision into my life, remember, he is providing for you every moment or every day. Your ability to think and to breath and to choose this day who you will serve.

Thank Him for His ongoing provision for you. Claim His blessings as you seek to serve Him with all your heart! Ask Him to do the amazing in your life, not because you deserve it or want it, but because it will give Him glory.