**Renewing God’s Provision**

**Revelation 3:7-13**

**An Open Door**

* As the Risen Christ walked among the Lampstands, He spoke words of encouragement to the congregations. He spoke of heaven’s unlimited line of credit of grace and provisions.
* God’s storehouse of power and provisions is inexhaustible and entirely reliable. We are not paupers; we are children of the Mighty King!
* Every time God places you in a position of need, He enables you to experience firsthand that He is your provider.

**James 2:20** *Foolish man! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?*

The truth is: Faith is not expressed by what we say, but by what we do.

**God’s Bank Account**

* God’s will often appears to be impossible to us. That’s because when God initiates a work, He bases it on heaven’s bank account, not ours.
* It is alright to believe when God has our church in a position where we constantly need His provision, we will experience it, usually miraculously.

**What Church Do You Identify With?**

**Smyrna:** paying bills, we could do more if we had more?

**Philadelphia:** Worried about harmful threats? Are you intimidated by the evil at work around you?

**Laodicea:** You’ve been self-confident and self-sufficient and now you are in need and have no way to make it?

* Many churches have money in saving for a “rainy day” but there is no ministry taking place just a family chapel church service built around the preferences and comfort of the members. Since they have enough to pay the preacher and the electric bill everything is alright, they are happy with their little group. Self-sufficiency kills a church.

**FBC, TF Renewal Group**

* There is a group in this church that chose to clear their schedule, humble themselves under the might hand of God, and pray as they sought God’s direction, purpose and plan.

**Our Renewal Process**

40 days of Personal Spiritual Renewal Devotions.

3 Sunday evening Workshops.

Flickering Lamps Sermon Series

*Our church will glorify God and make disciples by leveraging our resources, God’s love, and creative outreach in the context of community jams, volunteer for community events, and celebrate recovery – Crisis pregnancy Center because we have passion for positive ministry response, joyful workers, and gospel-centered engagement.*

**Our church or any church’s ability to minister is never limited by our resources; it is driven by God’s provision.**

**HOW GOD PROVIDES FOR OUR NEEDS**

1. **God Provides Finances**

* God does not need to provide any resources for what we are not doing.
* Mindset of many churches is once we have enough money collected, we can obey God. This is not acting in faith.

**Remember Joshua crossing the Jordan** (Joshua 3:15)

* The water didn’t part until the priests’ stepped into the water, God often waits until we start marching before He provides the resources for the task.
* God does not promise to provide for our good intentions. God promises to provide for our obedience!!

1. **God Provides Leaders**

* Often churches settle for their leaders. Most churches seek pastor who can manage the church. They settle for church management instead of a Great Commission Visionary Leader. God provides for His people.
* God had a purpose and a plan for this church, His church, when He established it. He provides leaders for His church.

**Recognizing God’s Provision**

* God is not restricted by the size of the church when calling a leader.
* God’s provision for a pastor is not limited by financial resources. Compensation is secondary, obedience is primary.

1. **God Uses What Is In Our Hands**

* God can provide any resource that is required in order to obey what He tells you to do.
* God can also use what we already have and use it powerfully.
* Don’t focus on what we don’t have, that can be failure. Focus on God’s provisions.

**MOSES (Exodus 4)**

* Moses gave a litany of excuses.
* God asked Moses, *“What is that in your hand?”* (4:2)
  + God used what Moses had to: turn water into blood, part the Red Sea, bring water from a rock, etc.
* Moses may have already used that **staff** for 40 years as a shepherd. He had no idea that in God’s hand it could become such a mighty instrument.

1. **God Provides New Ministries**

It’s not easy for a struggling church to admit that what they have always done is what led to their demise.

* Ministry leaders with vision to carry out the Mission of God has absolutely no interest to preside over the funeral of a church!

**Isaiah 43:18-20** *Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

* Gifted missional men and women of God (those who want to join God in His work) have no desire to invest their lives preserving the past. They want to embrace a Kingdom Vision that rocks the darkness, not a lifeboat vision!

**GOD BLESSES KINGDOM-CENTEREDNESS**

* I love Philippians 4:19 as much as you do! What a powerful promise of provision! Say it with me, *“And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*
* But we must understand the context of this verse and why the Apostle Paul wrote it.
* The apostle told the Philippians: *“And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again….I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*
* The Philippians church was a fledgling of a congregation, but it was gracious, generous, and Kingdom-Centered.
* In verse 19 Paul was declaring that when you invest in Kingdom-centeredness it strengthens the church.

**GOD BELONGS IN OUR BUDGET**

* We have a budget that guides us based on what we believe we can afford. It’s based on the contributions of the church family.
* The problem is we usually allow our resources to determine what we do.
* **Our RENEWAL group** prayed for 40 days seeking God about what we believe God is calling us to. We sought God asking Him, *“what are you calling us to do?”*
* We decided to ask God to be the provider of our needs to obey Him to do what is on His heart and mind.
* We were not allowed to use the phrase, “We can’t afford that.”

**GOD EXPECTS US TO BE FAITHFUL IN A LITTLE**

* God said, *“Faithful with little, He will give us more”*

**Remember the Parable of the Talents?**

**Matthew 25:21**…. *“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”*

* Every church has at least one talent! We are entrusted with what God gave us. This is our watch; we are responsible for our investment.
* We will never make disciples of all nations if we only attempt what we think we can afford.
* God is setting our agenda; we are walking by faith and in full confidence of God’s ability to provide.

GOD ALWAYS PAYS FOR WHAT HE ORDERS!

* **We will not attempt what we can afford, but what God can afford!!**