

## No. 11 “Throw Off . . . the Sin That Easily Entangles Us” (Symposium) —Jehovah Will Provide Your Necessities

### *Note to speaker:*

This is the second talk of a three-part symposium. Emphasize the importance of not becoming anxious but, instead, trusting in Jehovah to provide for the needs of our family. This talk includes a demonstration

### **‘KEEP SEEKING FIRST THE KINGDOM AND GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS’ (3 min.)**

“Men of this world, whose share is in this life,” often devote themselves to making a comfortable living, raising a family, and leaving behind an inheritance (Ps 17:14)

Focusing one’s life solely on such pursuits can result in disappointment and anxiety

In contrast, Jesus taught his followers to ‘seek first the Kingdom and God’s righteousness,’ which would result in guaranteed blessings [Read Matthew 6:33]

Family heads have a Scriptural responsibility to provide for the material needs of their family (1Ti 5:8)

However, putting Kingdom interests in second place would indicate a lack of faith in Jehovah’s ability to provide for our needs

How can we develop faith in God’s ability to provide for us and our family?

We can meditate on how Jehovah has sustained his faithful servants

### **WHEN FACED WITH A SHORTAGE OF PROVISIONS (7 min.)**

*The temptation: To become anxious about food, clothing, and shelter*

Jehovah cared for Elijah in a most unusual way [Read 1 Kings 17:4-6, 9] (w92 4/1 18-19 ¶1-4)

To survive the drought and famine, Elijah had to rely on whatever provisions Jehovah made for him

The widow showed faith when she put Elijah’s needs ahead of her own [Read 1 Kings 17:13-16]

Many in modern times have demonstrated faith like that of Elijah and the widow

[Relate either or both of the experiences from *The Watchtower* of September 15, 2011, pages 12-14, paragraphs 7 and 11]

*What to do: Trust in Jehovah to care for your needs (Mt 6:34)*

Do your decisions regarding employment show that you have faith in Jehovah and are seeking the Kingdom and Jehovah’s righteousness first? (Pr 11:28)

What if your choice could result in financial difficulties?

### **DEMONSTRATION (4 min.)**

**\*\*[Bad example: A husband is out of work, and his wife informs him of a job opportunity. However, the job will require travel that would take him away from the family and cause him to miss the local midweek meeting. Funds are drastically low, so the offer entices him]\*\***

**Wife:** **\*\*[Excitedly enters a living room setting, where husband is relaxing]\*\*** Dear, I was working with Sister Brooks in service this morning, and she told me that the company her unbelieving husband works for is hiring! In fact, she said that her husband is willing to speak with his boss about hiring you! Isn’t that wonderful!

**Husband:** **\*\*[Stands up, speaking excitedly]\*\*** It sure is! And it’s about time! Jehovah is finally answering my prayers. But where does her husband work, what does he do, and how much does it pay?

**Wife:** Well, she didn’t give me a lot of information, but she did say the pay is excellent! **\*\*[Continuing, but with a measure of hesitancy]\*\*** But there is a snag . . .

**Husband:** Well . . . go on, tell me! What is it?

**Wife:** **\*\*[Less excited]\*\*** Well, she said he works for a long-haul trucking company that requires him to be away at times, and whoever takes the open position would have to make the same commitment.

**Husband:** **\*\*[Pauses contemplatively]\*\*** Hmm . . . “away at times” . . . hmm . . . did she say exactly *how long* he has to be away?

**Wife:** No, she didn’t, but I believe he is often away midweek. **\*\*[Continues in a frustrated manner]\*\*** But you know, dear, you have been looking for work and you haven’t found anything promising! The children are outgrowing their clothes, and you just told me the other day that the car needs costly repairs! Surely, Jehovah understands our situation.

**Husband:** **\*\*[In a confident manner]\*\*** You know, you’re right! In fact, the Bible says that I have a responsibility to provide for my family. So why don’t you talk to Sister Brooks and find out what would be a good time for me to speak with her husband . . . [Wife takes her cell phone in hand and begins to dial Sister Brooks’ number]

**\*\*[Participants freeze in place]\*\***

**Speaker:** Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation? Perhaps you or someone you know is facing such a dilemma at this very time! As we return to this scene, take note of how this couple adopts a more spiritual view of their situation

**\*\*[Good example: Same scenario and participants, but this time they take a more spiritual approach]\*\***

**Husband:** **\*\*[In a meditative manner]\*\*** Wait a minute. Hold off on making that phone call. Let’s think about this for just a minute. **\*\*[They proceed to sit down together]\*\*** You know, while I have been looking for work,

## No. 11      Jehovah Will Provide Your Necessities—Page 2

Jehovah has seen to it that we have what we really need. Sure, things have been a little tight financially, but we've had food to eat, a roof over our heads, and clothes to wear, haven't we?

**Wife:** *\*\*[In a very supportive and reassuring tone]\*\** Dear, you're right. Jehovah has been there for us since you lost your job. And we haven't had to sacrifice any of our meetings or field service in the process, so why start now?

**Husband:** I totally agree. *\*\*[Placing his arm around his wife's shoulder]\*\** Remember those times when we were down to our last dollar and we didn't know how we were going to get through the day? An odd job would come up at exactly the right moment, or we would get a generous gift from someone. Jehovah has truly cared for our needs. He has never failed us. We need to maintain our confidence and trust in him.

**Wife:** Definitely. If you agree, I am going to call Sister Brooks and thank her for thinking about us. But I'll let her know that we are going to keep looking for a job that won't interfere with our spiritual routine. If her husband hears of a job that won't require you to be away for extended periods of time, maybe she can let us know.

**Husband:** Great idea! The words of David recorded at Psalm 37:25 have certainly proved true in our case! He said: "I have not seen anyone righteous abandoned, nor his children looking for bread." *\*\*[Both exit, and speaker resumes]\*\**

### **JEHOVAH'S HAND IS NEVER TOO SHORT TO SAVE** (5 min.)

Jesus' statement at Matthew 6:33 does not mean that Jehovah will never allow a Christian to be short of necessities (w14 9/15 22)

On occasion, the apostle Paul experienced hunger, thirst, and a lack of clothing (2Co 11:27)

In modern times, some brothers have endured severe trials, including food shortage

While Jehovah is never the cause of our trials, he permits us to face trials of various sorts

Even if severe trials come, faithful Christians view such as an opportunity to demonstrate their trust in Jehovah **[Read Philippians 1:29]**

Under no circumstances will we resort to unscriptural means to escape from a trial (w04 6/1 22-23)

Never doubt Jehovah's support and his ability to give you what you need to endure (Isa 28:16; 1Co 10:13)

Let us now examine another area in which we must not allow our faith to waver

Brother \_\_\_\_\_ will present the concluding talk of our symposium, "Throw Off . . . the Sin That Easily Entangles Us"—Jehovah Will Resurrect the Dead"

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)