

Wake Union Baptist Church Sunday School Devotion



Opening Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your great love and mercy. Thank you for another opportunity to consider your Word. We pray for healing for all those that are sick. We ask that your peace and comfort be with all that are grieving or distressed. We pray for an end to this virus that we might once more be all together. Open our hearts and minds to your truth and may we always be obedient to your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

For all that are able, remember to attend our 11:00 am worship service in person.

Our pastor search is now entering the candidate interview phase. Please pray for God's leading in this process.

Memory Verses

¹²*Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. **Hosea 10:12***

³*For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns. **Jeremiah 4:3***

Gardening can be challenging as the success, or lack thereof, is dependent upon many variables such as weather (adequate and timely rain, right temperature, no damaging hail or wind), insects (recall Jonah and the gourd – Jonah 4:6-10), plant diseases, quality of the seed, richness of the soil, pollinators, and more. Assorted means of mitigating these factors have been devised, but ultimately it is God that gives any increase.

God's Provision

²⁹*And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb (plant) bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat (food). **Genesis 1:29***

On the sixth day of creation, God “giveth food to all flesh” (Psalm 136:25) making sure both man and beast would have adequate provisions.

³*Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb (plant) have I given you all things. **Genesis 9:3***

After the flood, meat was also provided for man, “for every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving” (1 Timothy 4:4).

²⁵*Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy (lovingkindness) endureth forever. **Psalm 136:25***
God provides for us out of faithful lovingkindness which endures forever.

⁷And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.

Deuteronomy 12:7

In the giving of the laws of sacrifice and worship we find this invitation to dine before the Lord that “*hath blessed thee*”; an invitation renewed in Revelation 3:20 “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup (dine) with him, and he with me.*”

¹⁰And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: ¹¹And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.

Deuteronomy 26:10-11

The offering of first fruits was to be accompanied by worship, rejoicing in God’s good gifts, and recognition that it was God that provided the harvest. King David acknowledged God’s provision with “*who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee*” (1 Chronicles 29:14). Every good thing we have we owe to the blessing of God.

¹³He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. ¹⁴He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb (plants) for the service (labor) of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; **Psalm 104:13-14**

The essential rainfall, absolutely necessary for the earth to “*bring forth food*” is a gift of God.

“So Shall My Word Be”

¹⁰For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: ¹¹So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void (empty), but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper (succeed) in the thing (purpose) whereto I sent it. **Isaiah 55:10-11**

God’s Word accomplishes God’s purposes. It is certain as “*there hath not failed one word of all his good promise*” (1 Kings 8:56). It is spirit and life (John 6:63) to those that receive it, judgment and death to those that reject it. Through it we get understanding, guidance, peace and comfort, conviction of sin and need for a Savior, salvation, hope, and so on. It accomplishes the purposes for which God provided it, and we are to be both eaters of the bread of life (as we read and study it) and sowers of seed (as we share the Good News with others).

⁶I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. ⁷So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. ⁸Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. ⁹For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry (field), ye are God’s

building. ¹⁰*According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.* ¹¹*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* **1 Corinthians 3:6-11**

Whether we sow the seed or water it, it is not about us. Each willing servant is used by God for His purposes and God provides the increase by His special blessing. We're all to be obedient, humble, co-laborers together with God and for God upon the foundation of Jesus for the glory of God alone. With this virus, attendance at the church building seems small, but online attendance remains a reminder of the wonderful provision and blessing of God for increase.

⁸*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:* ⁹*(As it is written (Psalm 112:9), He hath dispersed (scattered, sowed) abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth forever.*

¹⁰*Now he that ministereth (supplies) seed to the sower both minister (supply) bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)* ¹¹*Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.*

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

God provides what we need to accomplish His work of redeeming and transforming the world. When we are faithful in this way it results in thanksgiving to God.

Conclusion

⁹*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment (insight, understanding);* ¹⁰*That ye may approve (discern) things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;* ¹¹*Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by (come through) Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.*

Philippians 1:9-11

May our love for God and one another abound more and more according to the increase of God's blessing. As freely we have received, may we freely give (Matthew 10:8) and our soul and life be filled with fruits of righteousness through the grace and power of Jesus "*that God in all things may be glorified*" (1 Peter 4:11).

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for providing what we need and blessing us even beyond what we know. May your Word prosper in our hearts, in our church, and in our community. May we be faithful co-laborers for your Kingdom, always abounding in love for You and our neighbor. Please keep everyone safe and well until we meet again. In Jesus' name, Amen.