

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

20 – Sharing with God's people (2)
 > Needs <

Love Without Hypocrisy
 (Romans 12:9-21)


If you have it, you will:

Share with God's people*
 who are in need.
 Practice hospitality.
 Romans 12:13 (NIV)

* (Most translations use the word "saint." But that word confuses people who have been taught that "saints" are dead people who were "super-spiritual when they were alive.")


What is a
NEED?
 (And what is our obligation?)

Share with God's people
 who are in **need**.
 Practice hospitality.
 Romans 12:13 (NIV)

#1  **KEY CONCEPT**

Ready for it?


This verse is about God's people – the "saints."
 It is **NOT** about helping unsaved people.

 This verse is **NOT** about helping unsaved people??

THAT'S CORRECT!

Other Scripture passages describe our obligations toward them...
 and those obligations are often different:

- ❖ Because unsaved people are not in God's family.
- ❖ Because we want them to become part of the family.

#2  **KEY CONCEPT**

Don't forget it!

"WANT" is not the same as **"NEED."**


WE REPEAT...

Important!

REPEAT
REPEAT
REPEAT
REPEAT
REPEAT

"WANT" is not the same as "NEED."

If you learn this, you've learned more than most people in the world!



#3 KEY CONCEPT

Last "key" (for today)!

"NEEDY" and "LAZY" are not the same thing.

(Wanting "free handouts" does NOT mean you're needy. It just shows that you need repentance!)



NEEDS

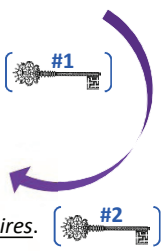
From the "GOD perspective"

IF YOU ARE A "SAINT" (as in v. 13a):

- ✓ God knows your needs.
- ✓ God will supply all your needs.
- ✓ God gives NO promise that he will supply all your wants and desires.

#1

#2



✓ God knows your needs.

Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

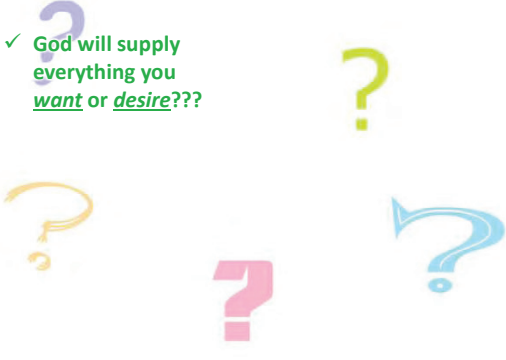
Matthew 6:8b (GW)

✓ God will supply all your needs.

And my God will supply your every need according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.


Philippians 4:19 (NET)

✓ God will supply everything you want or desire???



✓ God will supply everything you want or desire???

You'll grow cobwebs before you find a verse that supports this!



There are 2 situations in which people are guaranteed to get what they desire.

Either because:

1. They desire what God desires.

They desire God's will (not their own) to be done in their lives.

... if we ask anything according to his will, ... we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 John 5:14b, 15b (NIV)

Or because:

[Or because:]

2. **God is judging them for their sins:** They rejected God's ways, so he's giving them what they want! And the things they want destroy them.

They got what they wanted ... as well as the consequences that come with it.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts ...

Romans 1:24a (NIV)

[They] refused to love the truth that would save them. That's why God will send them a powerful delusion so that they will believe a lie.

2 Thes. 2:10b-11 (GW)

[From the "God perspective"]

IF YOU ARE A "SAINT" (as in v. 13a):

- ✓ Physical needs might not be met...
 - If your ultimate need is not physical.
 - If you need to be prepared for something glorious in eternity. (This includes the time of your death.)

Either way, you will still have what you need most.

- ✓ You can trust God, knowing that he has already guaranteed ultimate good for you!

- ✓ **Physical** needs are **NOT** always met; but you still have what you need most.

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart, my portion forever.

Psalms 73:26 (HCSB)

- ✓ **Ultimate good, guaranteed for you!**

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.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

NEEDS

From the "PEOPLE perspective"

IF YOU ARE A "SAINT" (as in v. 13a): (#1)

- ✓ God requires his people to help.
- ✓ God also requires you to take care of your own needs whenever possible. Laziness is sin! (#3)

- ✓ **God requires his people to help.**

Share with God's people who are in need.

Romans 12:13a (NIV)

- ✓ **God also requires you to take care of your own needs whenever possible. Laziness is sin!**
 - We'll look at this LATER!
 - **WE FIRST HAVE AN IMPORTANT QUESTION TO ASK...**

✓ **God requires his people to help.**

★ **But what if they don't help?**

- If your need is genuine and they have the ability to help... THEY ARE SINNING.

➤ **It's evidence that God's love is NOT in them.**

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

1 John 3:17 (NIV)

✓ If they continually refuse to share when needs are genuine: It's because they aren't really saved.

"Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his demons!

For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me anything to drink. I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me no clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

Matthew 25:41-43 (NLT)

It may surprise some people, but Jesus wasn't joking when he said this!

"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' And he will answer, 'I assure you, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

Matthew 25:44-46 (NLT)

NOT REFERRING TO UNSAVED PEOPLE!

JESUS GAVE THIS WARNING TO PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED TO BE SAVED.

YOUR "FRUIT" PROVED YOU A LIAR!

BUT I WAS A CHRISTIAN!

Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 7:20 (NIV)

✓ If they don't help...

What can you (the needy person) do?

- You can still trust God for your ultimate needs.
- You can have a forgiving spirit and pray for them, that God might grant them repentance.

The attitude Paul had when he was standing trial for the faith is relevant in many types of situations, including this one.

Everyone abandoned me. I pray that it won't be held against them.

However, the Lord stood by me and gave me strength ...

2 Tim. 4:16b-17a (GW)

ATTENTION NEEDY PEOPLE! **WATCH YOUR ATTITUDE!!!**

➤ **Follow the examples of Jesus and the early Christians:**

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."
[Stephen] cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
Luke 23:34a; Acts 7:60b (ESV)

➤ **Do what is right, even if people act like enemies:**

But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.
Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

[Point #2, from the "People perspective"]

✓ God also requires you to take care of your own needs, whenever possible. Laziness is sin!

★ If laziness is the reason they refuse to help, then:

- ✓ They are doing a good thing.
- ✓ It's YOU, not them, who need to repent.

WE WILL CONTINUE WITH THIS SECOND POINT NEXT WEEK!

FOR NOW, JUST REMEMBER THE BIBLE'S CONCEPT OF HELPING THE NEEDY...

WE SAW THIS LAST WEEK

{ IT'S JUST LIKE PAUL SAID: }

Right now you have plenty and can help them. Then at some other time they can share with you when you need it. In this way, everyone's needs will be met.

2 Cor. 8:14 (NLT)

IT HAS TO DO WITH SHARING, NOT FREE HANDOUTS

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13 (NIV)

NOTE THE DIFFERENCE

- ✗ **HANDOUTS:** ONE DIRECTION
- ✓ **SHARING:** BOTH DIRECTIONS

Your Mission...

REMEMBER THE KEY CONCEPTS

AND CONSIDER HOW THEY APPLY TO YOU.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13 (NIV)

1. This verse is about **GOD'S PEOPLE** (not the unsaved).
2. "WANT" is not the same as "NEED."
3. "NEEDY" and "LAZY" are not the same thing.

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

**"Share with God's people who are in need.
Practice hospitality."**

Romans 12:13

"Needs" and "desires" are *not* the same thing!

...whether they be *sinful* desires (which you *never* need) or *righteous* desires (which are good, though not always needed).

**WOULD YOU LIKE GOD TO GIVE YOU
EVERYTHING YOU DESIRE?**

GOD TELLS YOU HOW!

Have a right relationship with God.

- *Trusting him* - Matthew 21:20-22. (We can trust God to do that which is consistent with his holy nature, and which is revealed in Scripture. This does not mean "trusting him to do anything I want him to do"!)
- *Fearing him* - Psalm 145:19.
- *Delighting in him* (which includes delighting in all that is godly) - Psalm 37:4.
- *Obeying and pleasing him* (which includes trusting God and having a love that is based on actions and truth) - 1 John 3:22 (see also v. 18-23).

Have a life influenced by God.

- *Living in Christ*, with his teachings living in us - John 15:7.
- *Living by the Spirit* (which means we will not desire sinful things) - Galatians 5:16.
- *Living a righteous life* - Proverbs:10:24; James 5:16.
- *Bearing the "spiritual fruit"* of a godly life - John 15:16.

Have prayers influenced by God.

- *Asking for the things that God desires* - 1 John 5:14-15.
- *Asking what Jesus would ask* - John 14:13; 16:23.
- *Asking with righteous motives* - James 4:3 (this verse shows what happens if you *don't* do this).

EXAMPLES OF GODLY DESIRES

What does Scripture say?

- *Desiring God* - Psalm 42:1-2; 63:1-8; 73:25; 143:6; Isaiah 26:8-9; Philippians 1:23 (refers to eternity).
- *Desiring to live right* - Psalm 40:8; 119:174; Hebrews 13:18. (God also desires this for you - Psalm 51:6; James 1:19-20.)
- *Desiring wisdom* - 2 Chronicles 1:7-12 (example); James 1:5.
- *Desiring gifts and abilities* that build up God's people - 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 (includes *all* the needed gifts and abilities - see chapter 12); as a leader (only if you qualify) - 1Ti 3:1-7.

What about other things?

- Most people focus on things related to health, wealth and happiness. These may be good; but (when good) they are all examples of *short-term* good. God may give them to you - but *only* if they don't go against a *long-term* good he has for you.