

May 26, 2021

God's Blessings

As we move from **Psalm 23:4** to **Psalm 23:5**, we move from God's comfort and encouragement to God's blessings. Verse 5 outlines three of God's blessings. First, He prepareth, second, He anointeth, and third, He filleth.

The first phrase, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies" speaks of God's provision. The believer has three enemies, the world, the flesh, and the devil. Satan uses the world to entice the flesh to sin against God. These enemies seek to rob the child of God of the joy of the Christian life. The table speaks of the basic provisions of life, our daily bread, and has both physical and spiritual applications. In all of the difficulties, adversities, and trials of life, God has promised to provide for the needs of His children. **Philippians 4:19** says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." God is able to supply our every need and the enemies of the soul are powerless to stop Him or to hold back His provision. While the three enemies of the believer are contrary to the Christian life, God is greater and able to provide and care for His children regardless of the obstacles or circumstances. Therefore we are able to rejoice or be joyful in all things, **Philippians 4:4**.

The second phrase, "...thou anointest my head with oil..." refers to the eastern custom of anointing the head of a distinguished guest as a means of providing comfort and refreshment much as a bath is used today to cleanse and refresh the body. Spiritually the anointing oil represents the Holy Spirit who is our spiritual guide and comforter. No doubt David was remembering his experience as recorded in **I Samuel 16:13**. God not only provides for our basic needs, but He provides additional blessings or luxuries. What are some blessings that God provides that might not be considered necessities? In **Acts 2:1-4**, on the day of Pentecost, the apostles were filled or anointed with the Holy Spirit. As believers, we receive the presence of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, but His power is only manifested as we are filled with the Spirit or yielded to His control, **Ephesians 5:17-21**.

Anointing oil was also used to cleanse and heal wounds. A shepherd would use oil to treat the wounds of the sheep. In **Luke 10:30-37**, who cared for whom? The oil served as a cleansing agent as a healing balm thereby aiding with one's comfort and well-being. From what do we need cleansing? Read **John 16:7-8**. Who is the Comforter? According to verse 8, what three things will He do?

The third phrase, "...my cup runneth over," speaks of God's abundant blessings. God does much more than simply supply my needs and provide simple luxuries. He blesses far above what we could ask or think, **Ephesians 3:20**. He not only fills our cup, but He fills it to overflowing. According to **Psalm 107:8-9**, what does God's goodness do for the soul? Hunger and thirst are both physical and spiritual in nature. God's provision satisfied the needs of both the body and spirit. In what ways has God blessed you above and beyond what you might reasonably expect? Consider both physical and spiritual blessings.