

FAITHFUL GOD

October 26, 2025

Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

IN THE "FAITH OVER FEAR" SERIES:

October 5: *Perfect Love*

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John 6:1–13 (NLT) (1) After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. (2) A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. (3) Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. (4) (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) (5) Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" (6) He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. (7) Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!" (8) Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. (9) "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" (10) "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) (11) Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. (12) After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." (13) So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Four Biblical Truths:

1) _____ **our financial need.**

Matthew 6:7–8 (NLT) (7) "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. (8) Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

Psalms 139:1–4 (NLT) (1) O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. (2) You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. (3) You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. (4) You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

2) **We need to** _____ **in our impossible situations.**

THE THING THAT LOOKS IMPOSSIBLE TO YOU IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD.

Jeremiah 32:17 (NLT) (17) "O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!

3) **God is able to take what we have and make it** _____ **if we do what He asks us to do with our finances.**

1 Kings 17:8–16 (NLT) (8) Then the LORD said to Elijah, (9) "Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you." (10) So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" (11) As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too." (12) But she said, "I swear by the LORD your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die." (13) But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. (14) For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!" (15) So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. (16) There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the LORD had promised through Elijah.

What does God ask us to do in regard to our finances?

a) God asks us to _____ to His Church and to others.

Proverbs 3:9–10 (NLT) (9) Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. (10) Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

Malachi 3:10 (NLT) (10) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NLT) (6) Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. (7) You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." (8) And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

b) God wants us to _____ and live righteously.

Matthew 6:24–33 (NLT) (24) "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. (25) "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? (26) Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? (27) Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? (28) "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, (29) yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. (30) And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? (31) "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' (32) These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. (33) **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.**

4) We need to replace our fear and anxiety with _____.

**GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S PROVISION IN THE PAST IS THE KEY TO HAVING
CONFIDENCE ABOUT GOD'S PROVISION IN THE FUTURE.**

GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO BE FEARFUL AND ANXIOUS!

Romans 8:32 (NLT) (32) Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

**WHY WOULD A GOD WHO GAVE YOU JESUS NOT GIVE YOU EVERYTHING
ELSE YOU NEED?**

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on our website at **www.otterbeinchurch.org**.*