

## 9-Who Are You Expecting to Meet Your Needs?

Have you ever wondered why the people around you don't meet all your needs? The answer is not complicated. People are not the answer to your needs. Only Jesus can fill the hole in your soul. Your Creator designed you and He wants His Son to be the key to your peace and happiness. I am not saying He will not bring people into your life who can bring you joy and happiness. He will bring marvelous people into your life. But the truth is that people can let you down and Jesus will NEVER let you down. He will never abandon you. He will never forsake you. Ref: **Hebrews 13:5**.

I receive great joy from my wife, my children, my grandchildren, my siblings and my friends. However my GREATEST joy comes from my relationship with my heavenly Father, my Savior and the Holy Spirit. I start every day with time with the triune God. That time quiets my mind, feeds my spirit and prepares me for the spiritual battlefield called life.

Please don't confuse needs and wants. I want a private jet, an around the world cruise and a stress-free life. James 4:3 addresses the private jet and cruise since they are my passions. They have never been part of my prayer life because God is not a sugar daddy. I have been blessed to cruise with my bride. Southwest is as close as I'll get to a private jet!

A stress-free life is an illusion. I have Jesus to deal with the stresses of life. There are clearly days when Jesus carries me on his shoulders just as a shepherd carries a lamb. On those days Jesus is meeting my needs. Stress free NO, but I never have to face life alone!

So what should I expect? The Bible tells me I will face challenges. It tells me that although "I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil." That's quite a promise! I can testify there have been "valley of the shadow of death" days in my life. Days when I have lost a parent. Days when I have been laid off from a job. Days when I have watched helplessly as my wife dealt with health issues. I can testify that every one of those "valley of the shadow of death" days has passed. Based on my history, I expect that

challenges will pass but my relationship with my Creator will always be the foundation of my day. Nothing can rock that solid foundation!

Verses:

**Philippians 4:19** "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus".

**Luke 12:31** "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need".

**James 4:3** "You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, so you can spend it on your passions".

**Ephesians 3:20** "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us".

**Personal Reflection:**

Who have I looked to in the past to meet my needs? Am I ready to accept the fact that my Creator is the only one who can meet ALL my needs?

**Group Discussion:**

How can we encourage each other to place our needs at the foot of the cross?

How can we release our family and friends from meeting our needs?