

Philippians 13 – Supernatural Supply Chain

Dr. John Carmichael

[Phi 4:15-19 NASB95] 15 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent [a gift] more than once for my needs. 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. 18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- Earthly supply chains break down - delays, shortages, disruptions. But Heaven's supply chain is never blocked, never bankrupt, and always on time.
- Paul is writing to the Philippians, not because they're wealthy, but because they've been faithful. They were the only church that supported Paul early in his ministry (v.15).
 - At times, Paul worked to support his ministry. It was always to support the ministry! He never lost sight of what he was called to do. "While labouring to plant the church there, he was supported partly by working with his hands, 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; and partly by the contributions sent him from Philippi. Even the Thessalonians had contributed little to his maintenance: this is not spoken to their credit." (Clarke)
 - Paul never was a tentmaker who preached. He was a preacher who occasionally made tents. This is not true for everyone, however, to those who are called to ministry, it is important to keep the ministry front and center of vocational choices.
- They sowed; sacrificially, consistently, and Spirit-led. Paul declares, "My God will supply all your needs."
- This isn't about gimmicks. It's about God's supernatural economy: Seed → Sacrifice → Supply.
- There's a flow for those who sow.

What does Paul's words here teach us about tapping into the supernatural supply chain of God?

Here are three important points about tapping into the supernatural supply chain.

I. Giving Creates a Spiritual Partnership

- a. Philippians 4:15–16
- b. Paul says, "You partnered with me... you sent more than once for my needs."
- c. Giving isn't just practical. It's spiritual. It's koinonia; a deep fellowship with the mission of God.
- d. [2Co 9:6-7 NASB95] 6 Now this [I say,] he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one [must do] just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- e. [Luk 8:1-3 NASB95] 1 Soon afterwards, He [began] going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, 2 and [also] some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

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- f. No more freeloading spirituality:
 - i. [1Co 9:11 NASB95] 11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?
 - ii. [Rom 15:27 NASB95] 27 Yes, they were pleased [to do so,] and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.
- g. Ask the Spirit, "Where am I called to sow?" Be consistent. Not just in amount but in attitude. View giving as kingdom partnership, not charity.

II. Sacrificial Giving Ascends as Worship

- a. Philippians 4:18
- b. Paul says their gift was "a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God."
- c. "Paul described the gift of the Philippians in terms that remind us of sacrifices in the Old Testament (Genesis 8:21, Exodus 29:18, 29:25, and 29:41). Our giving to God's work is similar to Old Testament sacrifices, which also cost the person bringing the sacrifice a lot. Bulls and rams did not come cheaply in that day." (Guzik)
- d. The Spirit turns physical offerings into supernatural incense before the throne.
- e. [Heb 13:16 NASB95] 16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- f. [Act 10:4 NASB95] 4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.
- g. Give with worship in your heart. Not out of obligation. Pray over your offering; bless it, speak over it, send it with faith. Teach your family that giving is part of our priestly role before God.

III. God Supplies According to His Riches

- a. Philippians 4:19 "My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
- b. Not out of His riches, but according to them. That's unlimited, unmatched, and unstoppable supply.
- c. The Spirit connects us to heavenly resources far beyond what the world sees.
- d. [Mal 3:10 NASB95] 10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.
- e. [2Pe 1:3 NASB95] 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- f. [Eph 3:20 NASB95] 20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
- g. Speak faith over your finances. Don't align your mouth with fear. Track testimonies of God's provision and share them. Be generous even when provision seems tight. It's a seed, not a loss.

- **When we partner with God through Spirit-led generosity, we tap into a supernatural supply chain that never runs dry.**
- **The Philippians gave because they loved. And God guaranteed they'd never go without.**
- **In a time when people hoard and fear lack, God is raising up a Spirit-filled people who sow in faith and reap in power.**

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- **You are not at the mercy of this world's economy. You're connected to heaven's economy. And the Spirit is your supply chain manager.**