

## “Discerning Truth”

By Mrs. Sojourner



During this “Information Age” it seems that so much information is thrown at us through TV, radio, the internet, books, conversation etc., screaming “Believe me!” that it can be a challenge to know what information is truth, and what is opinion or just false.

So, you may ask, “How do we know what is truth and what is not?” Let’s go to the Word. <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning...<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-2,14 (NIV)

So, as the above scripture tells us, Jesus is the Word and he is full of truth. God so graciously provided us with the truth of his Word so we can use it to measure the things we see and hear as we go through life to see if there is truth in them.

<sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of

Notes:

[a]

the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. John 17:14-18 (NIV)

Jesus confirms here that the Word, the Bible, is truth. Numerous times throughout the scriptures God instructs his people to not just learn the scriptures, but to daily meditate on the scripture. Doing this incorporates the Word into our hearts and minds so that we can more easily ascertain which things that are Godly and which are not.

Many times The Sojourner has said that things that seem good are not always good, and what seems bad is sometimes good. Joseph did not consider the day he was sold into slavery a good day, but it brought about the salvation of his family from the drought. Dwelling on and leaning on the Word gives us the discernment we need.

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# Sojourning

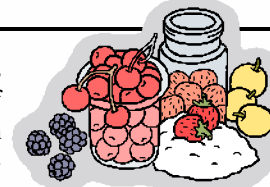
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...with The Sojourner

## “Grace And Provision”

(Teaching Sketch)

Deuteronomy 28:1-12



When God blesses mankind it is an act of grace.<sup>[1]</sup> Grace, when applied to the Believer, reaches far beyond the common grace experienced by all people. The common grace we would readily identify as life and the environment in which all live out their “natural” lives. All and any grace is a gift, an unearned gift.

### Receiving Provision

Many times when a person accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior they quickly come to the conclusion that Jesus is their Savior and that is all there is to the relationship. Perhaps, it was never explained well, when they heard the Gospel, that when a person accepts Jesus as Savior they are also to accept his Lordship over their lives. If the Savior part of the covenant is the only aspect understood or accepted they will soon find they are slipping back into old patterns of thinking and thus

Notes:

[1] charis  
khar'-ece  
;graciousness  
(as gratifying), of  
manner  
or act;  
especially the divine  
influence  
upon the  
heart, and  
its reflection  
in the life;  
including  
gratitude):—  
acceptable,  
benefit,  
favor,  
gift,  
grace (-ious), joy  
liberality,  
pleasure,  
thank (-s, -worthy).

old practices of their sinful life.

When a person, without realizing the totality of conversion, does not understand salvation is more than just “fire insurance,” but complete regeneration as a new creature in Christ Jesus, they are in lack of full provision! The Believer, once comprehending they have received, equally, salvation, healing, and deliverance for the now as well as eternity, they will yield to the Lordship of Christ. Understanding the fullness of grace and thus the fullness of Salvation is paramount before one can operate in the complete will of a loving God.

### Living In Provision

Providing provision for those in his Kingdom is God’s desire.

Provision is the means by which God shows himself faithful to his Word.

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

## Scripture:

### Deuteronomy 28:1-14

#### Blessings for Obedience

<sup>1</sup>If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. <sup>2</sup>All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

<sup>3</sup>You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

<sup>4</sup>The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

<sup>5</sup>Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

<sup>6</sup>You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

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<sup>9</sup>The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. <sup>10</sup>Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. <sup>13</sup>The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. <sup>14</sup>Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

## “Grace And Provision” (Teaching Sketch)

Deuteronomy 28:1-12

Living in provision for the Believer is the heart of God’s demonstration of his will for mankind which is made clear by his placing Adam and Eve in the Garden. The Garden was a place of total provision. It is in total provision, then, God will demonstrate to all who have been made new creatures through Christ Jesus, he has not changed. God is love. Provision is a natural component of love in both God and mankind.

Whenever a person loves another, the desire is to provide for the loved one the best possible environment.

#### Thanks For Provision!

Mankind then demonstrates thankfulness to God for the work of Christ on the cross by providing God with faithfulness to God’s desire for his people to carry out his will. This is not done grudgingly by the Believer but with great pleasure and joy! It is a thank offering then to a loving and faithful Lord for every supply in his great power! Believer, return thanks to God for provision!

#### Just so you’ll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

