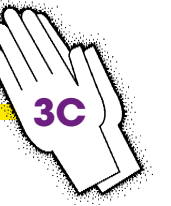


God Our Quartermaster



How do you react to the following story?

A young man has completed his military training, and has been posted overseas to a front-line position. As he gets ready to leave his parents and family, his father says to him, "Son, I think you'd better take along some cotton seed. You'll need a little cotton to produce some cloth to make yourself a uniform. And take a few cattle as well. There's nothing like a good barbecued steak once in a while, and you'll need the leather to make yourself some boots. Don't forget to take along a few tools to make yourself a decent gun and some bullets."

The story is ridiculous. When people go to a battlefield, they go there to fight the enemy—with undivided attention. They do not have time to worry about supplies—and they do not have to. The quartermaster supplies their needs.

Left section

We Christians are constantly at God's *front line* in a full-time battle against Satan. We must study Satan's camouflages and strategies, and equip our minds to fight in Jesus' way by devoting life to serving God and others. We pray for God's guidance, inspiration, and power to reflect Jesus' mind and manner in all we do (**praying hands, Servant-King Jesus**).

Right section

1 We are not to worry about supplying our own needs. We do not need to, for God attends to that (*symbol for God; God's hands extended downward, with plate, knife, and fork*). God is our quartermaster. As we look to God for guidance and strength to fight Satan effectively, we also look to God to sustain our physical bodies.

2 In Matthew 6:25, Jesus says:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Jesus argues from the greater to the lesser. If God has provided us with such a precious thing as life, God will provide food to sustain that life. If God has provided us with the miracle of the body in which we reside, God will provide clothing for that body. However, God will provide what *God* knows we need—not what the *advertising world* pressures us to eat and wear. God promises to supply our *needs*—not our *greeds*.

3 In Matthew 6:33, Jesus tells us to strive *first* for God's kingdom and righteousness, and to rest assured that as we do that, God will provide our needs. The words "strive *first*" imply: *the one and only concern you are to have in life is...* Luke omits the word *first*, 12:31. In Matthew 4:10, Jesus says we are to worship and serve *only* God. We are to busy ourselves fighting God's battle by using creation and life to serve God and others, and to leave it to God to supply what God knows we need.

4 When people have much more than they need, the issue is not that God has singled them out for special blessing. Rather, they have merely been entrusted with much to share with those who have little. Although God has *provided* for humanity's needs, humanity has not *divided* justly what God supplies!