

FOOD



From the creation up to now, God has provided for our needs and has provided food to keep us healthy. We often take food for granted because it seems easy to get at the store. We often forget that it is God's love that feeds us. If God did not love us the earth would not produce enough food to feed us.

What can we learn from God's creation of food?

Food has many meanings in the Bible. Food can mean anything from what we eat to what we have faith in. This may seem complicated but it is not.

Let us begin with the Bible's use of food as something we eat to stay alive. In Psalm 145:15-16 we see how God feeds all of His creation, "The eyes of all look to you and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." In Psalm 132:15 we see how God provides for his Church, "I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food."

Jesus teaches us that God knows our needs and will provide for them. We should not worry about food, drink or clothing since God will provide these things. We should instead focus our attention on God and what He says in the Bible. This lesson is in Matthew 6:25-34. Some parts of

this section of the Bible are, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink ... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow (plant) or reap (harvest) or store away in barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them ... So do not worry saying, 'What shall we eat?' for the pagans run after all these things and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."

The Bible teaches us that food is not the only thing we need to live. We also need to have faith in God in order to live now and for all eternity. In Matthew 4:4 Jesus tells us, "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." We are kept alive by God and not food. We must keep our faith in God to provide for our needs.

The Bible teaches us that we can be hungry for something other than food. We can be hungry for righteousness (goodness) in the eyes of God. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who

hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." God not only feeds our bodies but He also feeds our souls with His righteousness when we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

Doing the things God wants us to do is food for our souls. Jesus told His disciples in John 4:32, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." The food that Jesus was talking about was doing the will of His heavenly Father and being filled with righteousness and joy which is more than food.

Jesus teaches us that faith is more important than earthly things. Since God will provide for our needs, we should focus our attention on God's word - the Bible. In the Bible we learn the lessons that God wants us to learn. We learn about Jesus and how He died to save us from our sins. Because of Jesus, we have eternal life. Jesus is the food our souls need to live forever! Jesus teaches us this in John 6:35-40, "I (Jesus) am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty ... Whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have

come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day."

Finally, Jesus teaches us that faith in Him as our Lord and Savior is the food that will make us alive now and for all eternity. Jesus gave His body and His blood to pay for our sins so that we could have forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. Jesus teaches us in Luke 22:19-20, "And he (Jesus) took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant (agreement with God the Father) in my blood which is poured out for you.'" When we go to Communion (the Lord's Supper) we are remembering what Jesus did for us and accepting the gift of His life given to save our lives.

Food really is more than just what we eat!

