

**Here's Hope
"Hope in God's Supply"
1 Kings 17:1 – 16**

Big Idea – My hope and trust are in God to supply all my needs, not the government, or banks or other human beings.

Intro - Today is Father's Day, and I'd like to acknowledge all of the fathers and mothers in the audience here at CBC today along with those in our online church. For the next message in our Here's Hope series, we'll look at a passage in the Bible where a single mother who was a widow with one son illustrates for us how it is possible to have hope even when faced with the possibility of not enough food and starving to death.

Strong's concordance defines hope with the synonyms – refuge, shelter, confidence, faith, trust

The story begins with Elijah, the prophet of God predicting a drought that lasted years which severely impacted the food supply.

To have hope about money, food, clothing, I must:

1. Trust God alone as my source.

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 "Everything in heaven and earth is yours (O Lord)...Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things."

Psalms 34:8 Look and see how good the LORD is. Happy is the person who trusts him.

9 You who belong to the LORD, fear him! Those who fear him will have everything they need.

10 Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will never lack any good thing.

Haggai 2:8 "The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the LORD Almighty.

Proverbs 11:28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God.

Illus: A Communist Learns God Is the True Owner and Provider

Pastor Brian Kluth, who is Generosity-minister a large told this true story. "A number of years ago, I was teaching a seminar on what the Bible teaches about finances to Christians in Eastern Europe. After the seminar, one of the people came and told me how much the teaching helped everyone. He said during the 70 years communism was in their country, people were told the Communist government owned everything and the government would provide for everyone. He went on to say that communism fell, and people came from America and said that capitalism was the way to go-- where people own everything and they have to provide for themselves. He then said, today I learned the best news of all. God is the owner of everything and He is our provider. He learned people must be faithful and generous with whatever God gives them."

To have hope about money, food, clothing, I must:

2. Obey God's Word even when it is hard to do.

1 Kings 17:2 Then the LORD spoke his word to Elijah: 3 "Leave this place and go east and hide near Kerith Ravine east of the Jordan River. 4 You may drink from the stream, and I have commanded ravens to bring you food there." 5 So Elijah did what the LORD said; he went to Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and lived there. 6 The birds brought Elijah bread and meat every morning and evening, and he drank water from the stream.

Do you imagine it was easy or hard to go wait on some ravens to bring your food to you?

1 Samuel 15:22 But Samuel answered, "What pleases the LORD more: burnt offerings and sacrifices or obedience to his voice? It is better to obey than to sacrifice. It is better to listen to God than to offer the fat of sheep.

23 Disobedience is as bad as the sin of sorcery. Pride is as bad as the sin of worshiping idols.

To have hope about money, food, clothing, I must:

3. Keep on trusting when "the brook runs dry."

1 Kings 17:7 After a while the stream dried up because there was no rain.

Our problem is that when something happens to the brook, we forget that God made the brook and He knows all about it.

Matthew 6:25 "So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are.

27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not.

31 "So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing.

32 Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs,

Isaiah 12:2 God is the one who saves me; I will trust him and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD gives me strength and makes me sing. He has saved me."

To have hope about money, food, clothing, I must:

4. Continue obeying God.

Like Elijah did, and like the widow did.

1 Kings 17:8 Then the LORD spoke his word to Elijah, 9 "Go to Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I have commanded a widow there to take care of you."

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

To have hope about money, food, clothing, I must:

5. Always put God first.

Like the widow did & she got to see God miraculously supply!

Deuteronomy 14:22, 23 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce...The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food enough in my Temple; if you do, I will open up the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it in! "Try it! Let me prove it to you!"

An old 1 dollar bill and an even older \$20 arrive at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired.

"I've had a pretty good life," the \$20 says. "I've been to Vegas, the finest restaurants in New York, and even on a Caribbean cruise."

"You did have an exciting life!" the dollar says.

"Where have you been?" the \$20 asks.

"Oh, I've been to the Methodist church, the Baptist church, spent some time with the Lutherans..."

"Wait," the \$20 interrupts. "What's a church?"

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

"...Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern."

