

17 8-2-20 *How much assurance do you need?*

Some people just need more assurance than others. They can't believe good fortune will come their way and stay. They don't believe anyone who says "Don't worry about it."

How about you? How much more assurance do you need to believe that God will **really** take care of you? Look again at today's readings. Do you need more proof of God's providence?

In the first reading God tells us: "*All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!*" The response to our psalm is: "*You open your hand to feed us, Lord, and satisfy our needs.*" Our second reading begs the question: "*Who will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" And in the gospel, Jesus feeds the multitudes and we hear: "*They all ate and were satisfied.*"

It's quite clear from our Scripture readings today that God plans to take care of our needs.

Imagine a son asking his father: "Father, please will you allow me to eat today?" Or, "Dad, please let me wear shoes today?" Or, "Papa, please protect me from harm."

We presume our earthly father's providence and protection. Should we not presume the same from our heavenly Father?

Many people BEG God for what they need. They pray "God, please get me out of this trouble." "God, please help me provide for my family." "God, please cure my child."

Of course, any prayer is good, and the Lord does see within our hearts. The Lord knows our sincerity and motivation. But, let's never forget that God is our Father!

We should never abuse the God's providence, but since we are His children we ought to be less a BEGGER and more of a BELIEVER, when we approach our heavenly Father.

Believe in God's promised providence. Praying like this may be better: "Father, I know you heard me the first time I prayed. I believe your answer is already on the way. I may not know when. I don't know how. But I do know you already have a solution. I know you already are sending me exactly what I need. So, I just want to thank you that you are at work in my life."

Such a prayer shows you do BELIEVE in your provident heavenly Father, and are assured of His care for you.

A little child expects his or her father to care for, provide for, and protect him or her. We are to approach our heavenly Father with the same confidence. Our heavenly Father is there for us. He's got our back.

"*Come to the water!*" "*God satisfies our needs.*" "*Nothing will separate us from God's love.*" "*All were satisfied.*" What more assurance do you need?