

It's so hard to know

how and when God provides sometimes. And what I mean is that we know God is active and working in our world, which we see throughout the stories in the Bible, and we're told that God will be with us by Jesus himself (Matthew 28). And, hopefully, we all have stories that we can confidently say we saw God's hand moving in our heart, mind or even tangibly.

The problem we run into is that we don't definitively know when God is working in our world today. We can look at the Bible and see times where we're told, and God's people are told, that he's doing something specifically in their lives. We can see the miracles and the signs that God performed through people and that Jesus himself performed and know God accomplished those. But you and I don't have the benefit of that special revelation from God telling us clearly and without a doubt that he is the one who accomplished those things.

And that's okay. I mean, sure it'd be nice if we got a letter in the mail or a clear visible sign in the sky when God acted in this world on our behalf, but we're not usually given those special messages. And so, often, we're left wondering about if God truly acted in our lives.

And that can cause some tension amongst us, right? One of us might truly want to praise God for something that we think he did in our life, but another person might look at that and see random chance or just good luck. This story illustrates this well:

"Once there was a farmer who owned a beautiful stallion. One night during a terrible storm, his horse ran away. When his neighbors heard about it, they came to comfort him. *"Such bad luck- we're sorry your only horse ran away."* they said.

"Who is to say whether it's good or bad, replied the farmer. All I can say for sure is, my horse has run away. Time will tell whether this is good or bad." His neighbors just shook their heads and walked away. A week later, his horse returned home along with 20 wild horses!!! When they heard the news, the neighbors congratulated him. *"What good luck you have. Not only did your horse return, but he brought 20 more back with him. You're such a lucky man!"*

The farmer smiled calmly and responded, *"Who is to say whether it's good or bad. All I know is my horse has come home with 20 wild horses- and leave it at that."* Again, his neighbors shook their heads and scoffed – *"Of course it's good luck you old fool! Twenty new horses is obviously good luck!"*

Now this farmer had an only child – a son. The following week the farmer's son was in the corral, breaking in one of the new horses when he was thrown off and broke his leg. Upon hearing the news, the neighbors came over to comfort the farmer. *"You were right. Those wild horses were not a sign of good fortune- now your son has broken his leg, and right before the harvest. Such bad luck!"*

Again the farmer replied *"Why do you always want to label something as good or bad. Why can't you just say, "My son broke his leg while riding a horse, and leave it at that. Who is to say whether it is good or bad?"*

The neighbors became indignant *"Listen old man, to have your son break his leg at this time is unfortunate and a sign of bad luck. You are such a fool to think otherwise."*

The next week, the Emperor's army arrived in town and conscripted all eligible young men, and sent them to war in a foreign land. However, they did not take the farmer's son on account of his broken leg. Afterwards, the people were

heartbroken and came to the farmer in tears. *"You were right – our sons are gone, we'll probably never see them again! Our town has experienced such bad luck!"*

The old farmer *sighed and said "Why do you continue to insist an event is good or bad? We do not know the end from the beginning. Why can't you just say, our sons have been drafted, and only time will tell if it's good or bad."*

And so, what should we do about all of this. First, I would say in order for us to praise God for his work, it has to line up with God's character and nature that we see in the Bible. If it doesn't line up with a good, loving and just God, it wasn't his work.

But more than that even, I think we should praise God for the blessings in our life, even if he didn't necessarily do anything specific for us. He deserves our praise for our very breath, so when we feel blessed or something good happens, giving God thanks is always good!

And so, as we look at the chaos that often is our life, I pray we find God's hand working in our individual lives, and even if we're not sure if it's him, let's give him praise and thanks anyway! Serving Him and you, Matthew

Family Night

Family Night Kicks off on **Wednesday, September 20th at 6:00pm** with our annual kickoff followed by weekly meetings. We could still use some adult leaders to teach, help prepare meals, clean up after meals and general support and crowd control. Please let Matthew know if you'd be interested in helping. Donations of baked goods or store bought treats are always welcome, too.

Revival

Starting Sunday, October 1 we will have nightly Revival **at 6pm** with Shane Hargrave speaking and the Barely Ables leading singing. Revival will run through **Wednesday, October 4th**. Light refreshments will follow each night and we hope you'll plan on coming and inviting some friends!

Prayer List

Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver
Rhonda Barfield - seizures
Isaac Bell and mom – car accident, mom's cancer
Dorothy Cleavinger – serious health issues
Bill Danner – continued healing, dialysis
Jody Dean – treatments
Karen Fredrick – in hospital, not well
Mike Grater – cancer
Eric Hamm – leukemia
Gary Hulett – broken arm but no surgery
Jim Kinzer – cancer, heart attack
Bill Palmer – eye surgery recovery
Clyde Prater-cancer, experimental treatments
Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
Becky Watson – cancer treatments, stem cell
Debbie Opp – chemo treatment
Praise:
Lincoln Shaw is home
Betty Davis back home, doing well

August Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Aug 6th	\$686.00	\$32,229.30	\$34,984.64
Aug 13th	\$2,639.00	\$34,868.30	\$36,077.91
Aug 20th	\$781.00	\$35,649.30	\$37,171.18
Aug 27th	\$1,571.23	\$37,220.53	\$38,264.45

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship9 a.m.

Sunday School10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.*

*meets during the school year

Events:

Sun. Sept 3rd – Shower for Lincoln Shaw following morning service

Sun. Sept. 10th- Board Meeting @6pm

Tues. Sept. 12th – Man Up @6:30pm

Sun. Sept 17th – Community Service @10:30am

Galilean Service @4pm

Mon. Sept. 18th - Camp Fellowship, Ipava @6pm

Weds. Sept 20th – Family Night Kick-off @6pm

Thurs. Sept 21st – Ladies’ Fellowship @6pm

Sun. Sept 24th – Worship & Prayer @6pm

Weds. Sept 27th – Family Night @6pm

Thurs. Sept 28th – See You At the Pole @6am

Sat. Sept 30th – Camp Emmanuel 75th Anniversary



Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

Psalm 126:2-3