

sibly imagine! I could tell you some things you probably wouldn't even believe that God has done for me—just because I love Him & am trying my best to please Him, obey Him & do the job.

17. He's done some things for me that you probably wouldn't even approve of. My Dad used to say to my Mother, "You're the Lord's spoiled child; He pampers you!" Because she really loved the Lord & she did everything, made all kinds of sacrifices, was in touch with the Lord & really served the Lord & really obeyed Him. So He gave her anything she wanted, anything she asked the Lord for, her heart's desire. I told you about the time she stuck a quarter in the slot machine & got the jackpot. In my case, maybe I wanted to see this or that, or go some place or have some thing that maybe you might have thought was a luxury or a little unnecessary.

18. But maybe after you've served the Lord as many years as I have He might even supply a few things exceedingly abundant above all you could ask or think, pressed down, shaken together & running over—more than you need, little luxuries, comforts.—Eph.3:20; Luk.6:38.

19. Come on, let's face it!—You've got stuff right now you don't really need. The Lord was good to you & gave it to you because you pleased Him. In the contract He only promised us food & clothing.—He only guaranteed food & clothing, all your needs according to His riches in Glory. You're only guaranteed your needs, but if you please Him He usually throws in a few little odds & ends with it just to keep you happy.

20. Now a father of a home is obligated to support his family & supply their needs & give them food, clothing & shelter—the Law will even get after him if he doesn't. But if he really loves his children & they really please him & obey him, he will often come home & bring them the little extras, a little extra gift & toys & extra presents.

21. The stage you're in right now is probably going to be the rock-bottom stage because first of all He sees what you're going to do with a nickel before He starts giving you quarters or half-dollars or dollars or maybe a hundred or even a thousand. He wants to see if He can trust you with nothing before He gives you something. If you're faithful in a few things He'll make you ruler

over many. The Lord's going to wait to see if He can trust you with the necessities before He trusts you with any luxuries.

22. Now some people have grandiose ideas of how God's supposed to supply their needs: They think they ought to be rolling around in the very best & have the finest & the best-looking & the most expensive & so on. "Nothing is too good for God's servant." I agree that nothing is too good for you, but it might not be good for you. It might minister to your pride instead of your humility.

23. God has ways of doing things that aren't always our way. There are certain people hung up on certain doctrines of affluence—that no Christian should be poor, that no Christian should be afflicted, no Christian should be sick, should ever be unpopular, that you should have perfect wealth, perfect health & perfect popularity if you're a Christian.

24. For some reason or other I don't seem to find that in here about the Apostle Paul. Somehow or another Jesus didn't seem to quite fit that pattern, or His dirty, bare-footed, long-robed, long-haired, long-bearded, hippie disciples; & I figure if Paul hadn't quite made that affluent society, why, I sure don't rate it! Although I must say I think the Lord sometimes is a bit better to us than He was to the poor Apostle Paul—maybe that's why he'll probably get more glory & reward.

25. God will give you what you ask for; He's very definite. Be definite with the Lord! He says, "Command thou Me".—Isa.45:11. He'll give you what you ask for, & certainly what you have the faith for! That's the way the Lord blesses if you trust Him, if you please Him, if you follow Him, if you obey Him, if you're doing what He wants you to do & getting the work accomplished that He wants you to accomplish.

26. But watch out!—Sometimes material blessings can be a snare & a little trap of the Devil, & the Devil can heap them on you if you just kind of compromise a little here or there.

27. Watch out about compromise! Watch out about any compromise or pulling your punches for advantage, for finances, for protection, for safety, for anything. Be faithful to the message; be faithful to the method; be faithful to the Word; be faithful to the Voice of God; be faithful to His Revolution, the particular min-