

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

*He who is not contented with what he has,
would not be content with what he would like to have. —Socrates*

One day, my wife and I were traveling through the southwest en route to Fort Worth, Texas. We stopped in Albuquerque one afternoon where we booked a room to relax for the rest of the day.

I took a walk and saw many interesting things, including a pottery shop, an art museum and a precious metals store that featured fine turquoise jewelry. And then I saw a flea market.

It was amazing! I saw furniture, clothing, fruit, vegetables, shoes, leather goods, collectibles, toys, books, cars, artwork, tools, toiletries, cosmetics and cookware, among other things.

And then I saw this sign: **“If we don’t have it, you don’t need it!”**

Wonderful! It was as though the Lord was speaking to me about my own life: “Timothy, if you don’t have it, you don’t need it. Trust Me!”

I decided to do some research. I learned that the first version of this marketing expression appeared in 1907 in *The Dallas Morning News* in an ad for the Palace Drug Store. The ad said: **“If you need it, we have it!”**

Well, that’s true, too, isn’t it? If I really need something, don’t you think that the good Lord has it? The Bible says that “my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Flash forward now almost 50 years to Centralia, Washington, where on May 30, 1955, *The Daily Chronicle* carried a notice that a “local store posted this sign in its window the past week: ‘If you need it, we have it.’ Across the street a competitor flashed back: ‘If we don’t have it, you don’t need it.’”

Sadly, there are untold millions of people around the world who are marginalized, unfortunate, living in abject poverty and often at the mercy of a corrupt government. They have many needs, and that’s why good people everywhere try to be God’s hands and feet to help them have what they truly need.

For most of us reading these words, however, I suspect that there are many times when we may *think* we need something, when in fact we really don’t. This is a matter for you to ponder: If you need it, God will provide, just as God provided for the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness. God gave them manna in the morning, and quail in the evening.

Let us have faith in God’s loving providence.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, I praise you for providing for my needs. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

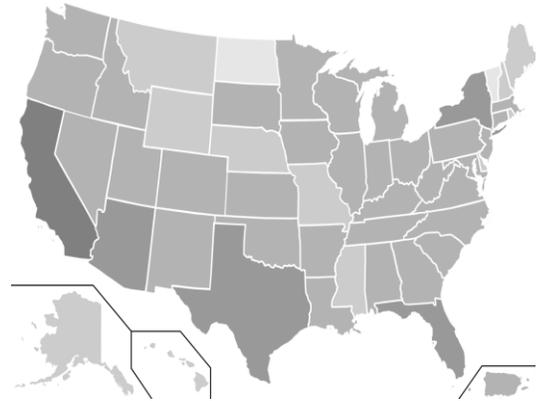


Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 7-9; **Monday:** Joshua 19-21; **Tuesday:** Joshua 22-24; **Wednesday:** Judges 1-4; **Thursday:** Judges 5-8; **Friday:** Judges 9-12; **Saturday:** Psalms 37-39

HOW MANY STATES HAVE YOU VISITED?

We live in a beautiful country with many national parks and big cities. Our country features rugged mountains, sprawling farmland, deserts and spectacular coastlines. This activity will help you relive some of your experiences. Place a check mark beside each state you have visited. Think about what you did, or who you saw while there. Perhaps you visited a friend or family member, or went to a museum and saw some wonderful scenic areas. The next time a friend comes to visit you, show them your list. Ask them what states they have visited.



THE 50 STATES OF THE U.S.A.

| State | ✓ | State | ✓ | State | ✓ | State | ✓ |
|-------------|---|---------------|---|--------------|---|-------------|---|
| Alabama | | Indiana | | Nebraska | | S. Carolina | |
| Alaska | | Iowa | | Nevada | | S. Dakota | |
| Arizona | | Kansas | | N. Hampshire | | Tennessee | |
| Arkansas | | Kentucky | | New Jersey | | Texas | |
| California | | Louisiana | | New Mexico | | Utah | |
| Colorado | | Maine | | New York | | Vermont | |
| Connecticut | | Maryland | | N. Carolina | | Virginia | |
| Delaware | | Massachusetts | | North Dakota | | Washington | |
| Florida | | Michigan | | Ohio | | W. Virginia | |
| Georgia | | Minnesota | | Oklahoma | | Wisconsin | |
| Hawaii | | Mississippi | | Oregon | | Wyoming | |
| Idaho | | Missouri | | Pennsylvania | | | |
| Illinois | | Montana | | Rhode Island | | | |



“April showers bring forth May flowers.” —English proverb