WOW: Word Of the Week

Provide

July 15, 2026

Alistair Begg called to my attention I song I did not know, or had overlooked. I simply do not remember it. It is a John Newton hymn. "The Lord Will Provide" is largely out of sight out of mind. It is not in the short Wikipedia list of best-known hymns written by John Newton (280 total). The power of the words startled me. So much more so than Newton's well-known Amazing Grace (original title, Faith's Review and Expectation).

We live in a world where hymnody has exploded. Ask Google for a number – innumerable! Immeasurable. I do not have to tell you that not all songs are created equal.

A great challenge of leading God's people is finding proper songs – songs that speak to touch the hearts of those present. In participating, we say "me too." How many times has "All to Jesus I Surrender" been used as an offering song? I don't know about you, but I sit wondering as I think about my own life, "really?" Should we not mean what we sing? Shound not our songs reflect our own heart experiences? That which we have seen?
Songs have context. Brother Porter was fond of singing "Ready to Suffer" just before I preached.
How does a song reflect our dry cold hearts in comparison to God's greatness and Majesty? That is our need in worship.

In the teaching I mentioned, Begg also talked about proper songs.

Check out Philippians 4:10-20; time will not permit a reading. Paul concludes: My God will supply your every need. Supply means fulfill, make full; not just meet, more than meet; not just fill, fulfill. The context includes v. 13: I am mighty for everything, in Christ who empowers me. Powerful, able, capable, I prevail in everything.

Jan and I talk about Scripture. What is Paul's point? She observes, "this is so much more than physical needs." We read physical needs. The principle that Paul sets forth apply there. But there is so much more to God's supply, God's provision. God provides. In that which I so much need to change but am powerless to change on my own strength, God provides.

Begg suggests Newton had Philippians 4 in mind as he wrote the hymn. The original expanded title reflects Gen. 22:14, Abraham to Isaac, God will provide the lamb, the sacrifice. Jehovah-Jireh.

For four months, Jan and I have been learning: God provides. He has been teaching us, convincing us when we doubted, encouraging us, sustaining us, holding us up, I am working on a WOW series that will reflect on our experience.

God will provide. Let your heart be touched. Let us learn to speak and sing and pray words that reflect our own hearts. With gratitude to John Newton, Alistair Begg, and our God who teaches and comforts us. May our words praise and exalt God out of the depths of our being.

Though troubles assail, And dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail, And foes all unite;
Yet one thing secures us, Whatever betide,
The scripture assures us, The LORD will provide.

When Satan appears To stop up our path,
And fill us with fears, We triumph by faith;
He cannot take from us, Though oft he has tried,
This heart-cheering promise, The LORD will provide.

He tells us we're weak, Our hope is in vain,
The good that we seek We ne'er shall obtain;
But when such suggestions Our spirits have plied,
This answers all questions, The LORD will provide.

No strength of our own, Or goodness we claim;
Yet since we have known The Saviour's great name,
In this our strong tower For safety we hide,
The LORD is our power, The LORD will provide.

When life sinks apace, And death is in view,
This word of his grace Shall comfort us through:
No fearing or doubting With CHRIST on our side,
We hope to die shouting, The LORD will provide.