



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

8 PATHWAYS TO SEEK ALLAH'S PROVISIONS IN THE QUR'AN

As a human being, we constantly worry about our provisions. It is only natural of course. BUT we have to remember that it is ONLY Allah Who will provide. Nothing comes from us. We just need to put in the effort ("tie the camel") in order to receive His Provision.

Allah has Promised us, that Allah "has made the earth a resting place for you, and the sky as a canopy, and sent down water (rain) from the sky and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you...." 2: 22

BUT, as we seek provisions on the earth, we must ensure that we are grateful to Him, continue to Obey Him and NOT compromise Islam. As long as we seek halal provisions and ensure that we do not forget our duties to Him and to the poor, we can seek any forms of halal provisions in this life.

However, the problem with human beings is that they get greedy and they forget about Allah Who was the One who Provides for them. Allah warned many verses in the Qur'an about wealth:

"Wealth and children are the adornment of the life of this world. But the good righteous deeds (five compulsory prayers, deeds of Allah's obedience, good and nice talk, remembrance of Allah with glorification, praises and thanks, etc.), that last, are better with your Lord for rewards and better in respect of hope." 18: 46

"Your wealth and your children are only a trial, whereas Allah! With Him is a great reward (Paradise)." 64: 15

Many examples have been given in the Qur'an about people of the past who were given wealth by Allah but they forgot Allah:

- Fir'aun
- Qarun
- People of Saba'

- 2 people in surah al Kahf: The one which was given gardens and rivers forgot Allah

Therefore as long as we seek halal means to seek good provisions from Allah, then inshaAllah He will Provide us more. Allah Mentioned about 8 ways in the Qur'an about Seeking His Provisions:

1. Provision has been determined and is due from Allah

"And no (moving) living creature is there on earth but its provision is due from Allah. And He knows its dwelling place and its deposit (in the uterus, grave, etc.). all is in a Clear Book (*Al-Lauh Al-Mahfuz* - the Book of Decrees with Allah)." (11: 6)

2. Unexpected provisions – but you must have TAQWA and TRUST Allah

"...And whosoever fears Allah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty). And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine. And whosoever puts his trust in Allah, then He will suffice him. Verily, Allah will accomplish his purpose. Indeed Allah has set a measure for all things." 65: 2-3

Allah The Almighty will reward the one who fears Him and is mindful of what pleases Him in all situations, in this life and the Hereafter. One of the worldly rewards is that Allah The Almighty will make a way out for him from hardships and adversities and will provide him from means which he never could have expected. Allah The Almighty Says (what means): *{“And if the people of the towns had believed and had the Taqwa (piety), certainly, We should have opened for them blessings from the heaven and the earth, but they belied (the Messengers). So We took them (with punishment) for what they used to earn (polytheism and crimes”}* [Quran, 7: 96].

3. Children

"And kill not your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Surely, the killing of them is a great sin." 17: 31

4. Increase Istighfar – Seeking forgiveness from Allah

"I said (to them): 'Ask forgiveness from your Lord; Verily, He is Oft-Forgiving; He will send rain to you in abundance; And give you increase in wealth and children, and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers.' " 71: 10-12

And (commanding you): "Seek the forgiveness of your Lord, and turn to Him in repentance, that He may grant you good enjoyment, for a term appointed, and bestow His abounding Grace to every owner of grace (i.e. the one who helps and serves needy and deserving, physically and with his wealth, and even with good words). But if you turn away, then I fear for you the torment of a Great Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection). 11: 3

5. Marriage

"And marry those among you who are single (i.e. a man who has no wife and the woman who has no husband) and (also marry) the *Salihun* (pious, fit and capable ones) of your (male) slaves and maid-servants (female slaves). If they be poor, Allah will enrich them out of His Bounty. And Allah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knowing (about the state of the people)." 24: 32

6. Gratefulness to Allah

"And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed: "If you give thanks (by accepting Faith and worshipping none but Allah), I will give you more (of My Blessings), but if you are thankless (i.e. disbelievers), verily! My Punishment is indeed severe." 14: 7

7. Charity

"Who is he that will lend to Allah a goodly loan so that He may multiply it to him many times? And it is Allah that decreases or increases (your provisions), and unto Him you shall return." 2: 245

Say: "Truly, my Lord enlarges the provision for whom He wills of His slaves, and (also) restricts (it) for him, and whatsoever you spend of anything (in Allah's Cause), He will replace it. And He is the Best of providers." 34:39

8. Put in effort (Tie the camel)

"And that man can have nothing but what he does (good or bad) ," 53: 39

OTHER WAYS IN ACCORDANCE TO HADITH

1. Maintain ties of kinship

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that he heard The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever would like his provision to be abundant and his lifespan to be extended, let him uphold his ties of kinship."

[Bukhari & Muslim]

2. Tawakkul - Putting trusts in Allah

'Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that he heard the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) say, "If you would trust in Allah as He truly should be trusted, He would surely provide for you as He provides for the birds. They set out in the morning with empty stomachs and return in the evening with full stomachs."

[Musnad Imam Ahmad, Ibn Majah 4164, Tirmidhi 2344. Authenticated in As-Saheehah 310.]

3. Du'a

Umm Salamah (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated that the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to say, when he would pray the Morning Prayer, after making the taslim [saying Asalaamu Alaykum Wa Rahmahtullah to the right and then to the left] he would say, "O Allah, I ask You for knowledge which is beneficial and sustenance which is good, and deeds which are acceptable."

[Ibn Majah 926, 3843]

4. Honesty and fairness in trade and business transactions

Ḥakim ibn Ḥazim (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "The two parties of a transaction have the right (to annul the contract) as long as they do not separate (from each other). So, if they were truthful (to one another), and honest in explaining (the defects of an item), then they will be blessed in their transaction. But, if they lied, and hid (the defects of an item) then the blessings of their transaction are destroyed."

[Muslim Book 10:3661]

5. Ibadah - doing acts of worship

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Allah says, O son of Adam! Take time out to constantly worship me, I will fill your heart with contentment, and remove your poverty, and if you do not do so. I will make

your hands constantly occupied but I will not remove your poverty.””
[Musnad Imam Ahmad, Tirmidhi 2466, Ibn Majah 4107. Authenticated in As-Saheehah 1359.]

6. Stop sinning

Being deprived of provision. In Musnad Ahmad it is narrated that Thawbaan said: “The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: ‘A man is deprived of provision because of the sins that he commits.’” (Narrated by Ibn Maajah, 4022, classed as hasan/sound by al-Albaani in Saheeh Ibn Maajah).

CONCLUSION

- Do remember that a person who is NOT given much provisions from Allah is NOT an indication that Allah does NOT love him/her. We can see the example in Surah al Kahf about one person who was not granted wealth despite his friend being granted plenty of wealth. It was the one who was granted much less wealth which remembers Allah.
- Also do remember that the occupants of Jannah are generally the poor people. Usama b. Zaid reported that Allaah's Messenger (way sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam) said: I stood at the door of Paradise and I found that the overwhelming majority of those who entered therein was that of poor persons and the wealthy persons were detained to get into that. The denizens of Hell were commanded to get into Hell, and I stood upon the door of Fire and the majority amongst them who entered there was that of women. (Muslim)
- Also, do remember that the more wealth you have, the more you will have to be accountable to Allah - what have you spent it on. Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “The poor Muslims will enter Paradise before the rich by half of a day, the length of which is five hundred years.”
Source: Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2354
Grade: *Sahih* (authentic) according to Al-Albani
- Hadith that reciting surah al Waqī'ah will increase provisions is a weak hadith so we should NOT read this surah with the hope to Increase provisions.