



GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

Money was tight. Having finished my teaching contract on June 15, no summer jobs were available and my graduate-fellowship would not start until classes began in August. My wife could not find a job, and the only work I could find was at a temporary employment agency.

One evening, our checkbook balance came to about \$12 dollars. We had little food, rent was due and so were the utility bills. It was clear that something had to happen now.

That night when I said my prayers, I kept them shorter than usual. "Father, I'm in this place because I heard You call me to graduate school. We have no more money. I have been faithful with my tithe, and You promised You would take care of me. It's time for You to keep Your word."

The next morning the agency called. "Doug, we have a job for you. It's 12 hours a day, seven days a week, which means plenty of time-and-a-half pay. Do you want it?"

It was Tuesday, and I figured I could get in four solid 12-hour days before they fired me for not working on Sabbath. "You bet!" I fairly shouted.

Friday, after I clocked out, I went to the foreman. "Sir," I began, "I am a Seventh-day Adventist, and tomorrow is the Sabbath. I won't be here to work, but I need this job. Will I still have it on Sunday?"

"I don't know," the foreman replied.

With no more assurance than that, I kept the Sabbath. When I clocked in Sunday morning, the foreman said nothing.

Every Friday I told the foreman I would not be in on the Sabbath, asking to be back Sunday. He never gave me any more assurance of work than a simple "I don't know," but he never fired me when I returned.

As it turned out, my arthritic knee couldn't keep up the pace until school started, and I had to quit. But by then my wife was working, and my overtime pay was enough to carry us to the start of graduate studies.

Knowing such a God who answers so suddenly in time of need and sustains so faithfully when we have no other assurance, how could we deny His claims on our time or finances?

— Douglas
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