

The Extra Button

“For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.”

2 Corinthians 9:10

I have a container full of these extra buttons now. You probably have one as well. Over the last few years it has become quite common when purchasing a shirt or sweater, to find an extra button attached inside a seam. Just in case a button is lost from the garment, instead of searching to find one that matches or having to replace all of the buttons because one is lost, you’ve got this extra one to use in case of emergency.

When I first started noticing these buttons, frankly it really didn’t mean much to me and most of the time I just left them attached. What was the point anyway? When I lose a button it’s in the washing machine or the dryer and it’s not really an issue to find it. Basically, I ignored the gift of the garment maker and just took it for granted that the extra button would be there when I needed it. You guessed it. The day came when I needed one of those buttons and after searching extensively for the original button and not having any luck and after spending too much time in the search, it was then I glanced down at the shirt that was lying in a crumple and there on the inside seam at the bottom was the “extra button”. It was there all the time and of course in my disgust and impatience, failed to remember the answer to my problem was right at my fingertips.

This story may sound trivial and even a bit mundane but I believe God continually works in our everyday lives to teach us, to love us and to show how He provides for us. A memory came back to me. A time in my life (30 years ago) when I thought I couldn’t hurt any deeper. My husband and I were thrilled, we had recently adopted a 5 month old boy and we couldn’t be happier or prouder of this blond-haired, blue-eyed bundle. Shortly after the adoption, I found out I was pregnant. Wow! All this joy was so overwhelming – we felt blessed.

Phillip was born 10 weeks premature. He lived 24 hours.

I didn't always look for consolation and hope in the right places. I kept searching for an answer to why this happened and many people and many books had their different ideas and answers to my questions, but none ever satisfied. None ever comforted.

The real source of comfort had been right there at my fingertips. I finally opened the Bible to the Psalms and read and read and read and prayed. I found that God had always provided "the extra button" for me. He has always known that in this sin-infected life on earth, the hurts and disappointments will happen, but before they come, He had given to me (and to you) all I needed to make it through these times. All that I would ever need was there in *His Holy Word*.

When I buy a shirt or sweater, I always look for the extra button and remove it immediately and put it in that special container. It's a good reminder of God's provisions and blessings available to me whenever the needs come.

Thanks Father, for your unfailing love and generosity. Thanks for knowing what I need before I do. Thanks for your patience and ability to teach me and use everyday circumstances to your glory.
In Jesus' name, amen.

By Sue Westrum