



# Pastor's Comments

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## Northampton Assembly of God

3449 Cherryville Rd., Northampton • Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm  
Daniel E. Lundmark • [pastor@NAOG.ws](mailto:pastor@NAOG.ws) • 610-262-5645

### Unsustainable?

**"Unsustainable"** is defined as **"not able to be maintained** or supported in the future, especially without causing damage or **depletion of a resource.**" Environmentalists, worried about depletion of natural resources, use the word in phrases such as: "the environment is being sucked dry by **unsustainable** development." It is used by economists as in the term, "**unsustainable** economic growth." It has been used to warn our leaders in government, who seem to think our taxes are an unlimited resource, to cut their immense **unsustainable** spending!

Last Sunday I spoke on **three Bible verses** where the word **"sustain"** appears. The **first** is in 1Kings 17:9 where God said to the prophet Elijah, "*Arise, get thee to Zarephath...and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to **sustain thee.***" This Hebrew word for **"sustain"** means "to maintain (in various senses) – feed, nourish, make provision, provide sustenance." Perhaps Elijah thought a **rich** widow would **sustain** him, but when he arrived he found the widow's resources were extremely limited! How could she **sustain** him? Only by a miracle of God through her faith and obedience! "*For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The **barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail.***" Man cannot **sustain!** Our capacities, time, and strength are all limited! **The Creator** has unlimited resources! "**By him all things consist.**" (Col. 1:17). God alone **sustains!**

The **second** verse is in Nehemiah 9:21, "*Yea, forty years didst thou **sustain** them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old.*" Had Moses known he would lead the 2 1/2 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years, I suppose he might have said, "That's **unsustainable!**" But Moses witnessed **divine sustainability** as God fed His people daily with manna from heaven and gave them water from the rock!

The **third** verse is in Psalm 55:22, "*Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and **he shall sustain thee.***" **Hear this message, "Unsustainable?"** (subtitled "**God Sustains**"), at: [www.naog.ws/sermons.htm](http://www.naog.ws/sermons.htm)