

Providence - God's Hand in Our Life

1Peter 5:6-11

In what way and to what extent does the providence of God operate on behalf of His children today?

The Bible teaches that God rules in affairs of men. - **Genesis 39:21; Esther 4:14; Isaiah 44:28; 1Timothy 2:1-2**

If God doesn't rule or guide affairs of men, why pray for our rulers?

Our inability to understand how does not nullify the fact that He does.

God continues to operate, caring for mankind.

Some equate providence with miracles

Miracles are supernatural; signs & wonders, which supersede natural law. - **Acts 2:22**

They were to make unbelievers believe - **John 20:30-31**

They were to confirm the word - **Mark 16:20**

Providence works within laws of nature. God directs His creation

God provides for His children which is providence - **Matthew 6:33**

These things include food, shelter and clothing - **Matthew 6:25**

Such provisions are not obtained without effort upon our part. - **2Thessalonians 3:10**

God will provide for our needs if faithfully serve Him & do our part

God Works in us

"The Power That Works In Us" - Ephesians 3:20-21

Some make this a mystical experience; Others a direct action of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life

Father grants you to be strengthened. - Ephesians 3:14-15

His Spirit works upon the inner man. - Ephesians 3:16

Results in Christ dwelling in our heart by faith. - Ephesians 3:17

Benefit: Rooted in love, comprehend, know, filled w/God's fullness - Ephesians 3:18-19

The power works in us - Power of faith - Power of God in our lives! - Ephesians 3:20

1John 5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

A parallel scripture to Ephesians 3 is **Colossians 1:9-12**

God is petitioned to act (fill them); and man is active in being filled with knowledge, understanding, walking worthy and bearing fruit.

We cannot eliminate God or man from this equation. Both work to accomplish God's will in man's life! - **Philippians 2:12-13**

How Does God Work in Our Life?

Through the gospel - **Acts 2:37-39**

God calls through the gospel - man is convicted - **Acts 16:14-15**

God opened her heart as he does all men, through the word. (Some are receptive, some are not) - **Romans 10:17**

Through Human Agents- **Ephesians 4:11-13**

For perfecting, ministry, growth. Through the work of inspired and uninspired men who deliver the truth to man.

We are laborers together with God. - **1Corinthians 3:9**

Through Prayer - **John 14:13; John 15:7**

Can Men Do God's Work in Their Lives?

Not only can we ----- we must! - **John 6:27-29**

Faith is a work that we must do - Trust in God that when we obey His word, He works in us & His will is accomplished in our life.

Through our obedience God's works are accomplished in our life. - **Philippians 2:12-13**

What should we learn concerning God working in our life today?

Learn to Trust in God - **Psalms 37:5**

Replace anxiety and worry with trust. God especially watches over His children - **Matthew 6:32-34**

Remember to pray - **Matthew 7:7-8**

If God is not active in our lives, no reason or protection in prayer.

Prayer works because God is at work! - **James 5:15**

God can only work in our life if we allow Him. Only occurs thru faith.

When live by faith, God works in us to produce His good pleasure within us.

Work as if everything depends upon you, pray as if everything depends upon God!

Ritchie Thetford