

The Hand of God Working in Our Life

Introduction

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

Ephesians 1:3

2. The Bible teaches that God rules in the affairs of men.

- A. He did so in the Old Testament

- 1) Joseph

Genesis 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

- 2) Esther

Esther 4:14....Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

- 3) Cyrus, King of Persia (200+ years before Cyrus)

Isaiah 44:28 Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure...'

- B. He does so today

- 1) Pray for our civil rulers

1 Timothy 2:1-2

- a) If God does not rule or guide in the affairs of men, then why are we to pray for our rulers?

- 3. We do not know how God intervenes, but our inability to understand it does not nullify the fact that He does.**
 - A. God continues to operate, caring for mankind.**
 - 1) Some cannot accept this because they equate providence with miracles. In contrast to providence, miracles are supernatural; they are signs and wonders (Acts 2:22), which supercede natural law.**
 - 2) Providence works within God's laws of nature. He continues to direct the world that He has created.**
- 4. God provides for His children which is providence.**

Matthew 6:33

 - A. These things include food, shelter and clothing (V25).**
 - B. Such provisions are not obtained without effort upon our part.**

2 Thessalonians 3:10If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

- 1) We can be assured that God will provide for our needs if we faithfully serve Him and do our part. Therefore.....**

God Works in us

1. “The Power That Works In Us”

Ephesians 3:14-21

A. Some make this a mystical experience; Others a direct action of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life. **Let the Context decide:**

- 1) V14-15> Father grants you to be strengthened.
- 2) V16> His Spirit works upon the inner man.
- 3) V17> Results in Christ dwelling in our heart by faith.
- 4) V17-19> Benefits: Rooted in love, comprehend, know, filled unto all the fullness of God.
- 5) V20> The power works in us - The power of faith - The power of God in our lives!

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

B. A parallel scripture to Ephesians 3 is

Colossians 1:9-11

- 1) God is petitioned to act (fill them); and man is active in being filled with knowledge, understanding, walking worthy and bearing fruit.
- 2) We cannot eliminate God or man from this equation.

C. Man and God are at work to accomplish God's will in man's life!

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling; for it is **God who works in you** both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

How Does God Work in Our Life?

1. Through the gospel

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, **they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

Acts 2:39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the **Lord our God will call**.

Lydia's Heart Opened:

Acts 16:13-15

- A. 2:39> God calls through the gospel - man is convicted**
- B. 16:14> God opened her heart as he does all men through the word (Romans 10:17). (Some receptive, some not)**

2. Through Human Agents

Ephesians 4:11-13

- A. For perfecting us, ministry, growth. Through the work of inspired and uninspired men delivering the truth to man.
- B. We are laborers together with God.

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

3. Through Prayer

- A. Prayer taps into the power of the universe, the love of the Father and the devotion of a trusted friend

John 14:13-14

- B. If there is a relationship with Christ and His word then God works through prayer in your life.

John 15:7

Can Men Do God's Work in Their Lives?

- 1. Not only can we ----- we must!

John 6:27-29

- A. 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.

1) "Trust and Obey"

- B. God's works are accomplished through our obedience.

Philippians 2:12-13

Conclusion

1. What should we learn concerning the hand of God working in our life today?
 - A. Learn to Trust in God
 - 1) Replace anxiety and worry with trust
Matthew 6:30-32
 - 2) God especially watches over His children.
Matthew 6:25-34
 - B. Remember to pray.
Matthew 7:7-11
 - 1) If God is not active in our lives there is neither propriety or protection in prayer.
 - 2) Prayer works because God is at work!
James 5:13-18
2. God can only work in our life if we allow Him to - through faith.
3. When we live by faith, God is working in us to produce His good pleasure within us.
4. **The bottom line: We should work as if everything depends upon us, and pray as if everything depends upon God!**

