

PRAYER  
PART 6 – *PRAYER AND PROVIDENCE*

Introduction:

1. “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).
2. For the Christian, there are no unanswered prayers.
3. It is good to consider the connection between God’s providence and the answer to prayer.

I. The Providence of God

- A. The word “providence” has to do with fore-thought and provision (Acts 24:2; Rom. 13:14).
- B. Easton defines it as, “God’s preserving and governing all things by means of second causes.”
  1. It is more than natural law.
  2. It is less than miraculous.
- C. Three examples:
  1. Joseph (Genesis 50:20)
  2. Esther (Esther 4:14)
  3. Jesus (Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:10)

II. Providence and the Prayer of Elijah

- A. Elijah’s prayer affected the weather (James 5:17-18).
- B. Yet, it was not a miracle (1 Kings 17:1; 18:1, 41-46).
- C. God worked by controlling His natural laws.

III. Providence and the Prayer of the Christian

- A. James used this event to illustrate the power of prayer.
- B. Prayer for the afflicted (cf. 2 Tim. 2:3, 9; 4:5)
- C. Prayer for the physically sick
  1. Intercessory prayer
  2. Joined with the use of medicine (cf. 2 Kin. 20:1-7)
  3. Results in healing (cf. Phil. 2:27)
  4. According to God’s will (cf. 2 Tim. 4:20; 2 Cor. 12:7-9)
- D. Prayer for the spiritually sick
  1. Physical sickness should make one consider his spiritual health.
  2. Sin may be forgiven through repentance, confession and prayer.

Conclusion: *God Is Able (Ephesians 3:20-21)*

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.