

# THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

## HEBREWS 13:5

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The concept of Deism professes a belief in a God who is distant and uninvolved. What is the true concept of God? (1 Cor. 2.11,12)
2. God has always been interested in you. (Ps. 139.13-16)
3. How does the Bible describe God's involvement in your life?

### I. THE DEFINITION OF PROVIDENCE

- A. The providence of God refers to God's interest in you.
  1. God provided the lamb. (Gen. 22.2,13,14)
  2. Provide: seeing a need and providing for it. (1 Pet. 5.7)
- B. The providence of God refers to God's involvement in you.
  1. Abraham believed God would provide. (Gen. 22.8,13)
  2. Providential action and inaction. (Ps. 104.14; Heb. 12.11)

### II. THE DEMONSTRATION OF PROVIDENCE

- A. The plan of God. (Gen. 37.2)
  1. God's plan involved Joseph's rise. (Gen. 37.6-9)
  2. God's plan involved a great famine. (Gen. 41.28-32)
- B. The presence of God.
  1. God was with Joseph while a slave. (Gen. 39.2,3,5)
  2. God was with Joseph while a prisoner. (Gen. 39.21)
- C. The protection of God.
  1. Israel was in great need. (Gen. 41.57; 42.2)
  2. All that happened was for good. (Gen. 50.20)

### III. THE DECLARATION OF PROVIDENCE

- A. **HEBREWS 13:5:** *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."*
- B. God is involved in our lives in three ways.
  1. God provides for our physical needs. (Matt. 6.31)
  2. God provides for our emotional needs. (2 Cor. 1.3,4)
  3. God provides for our spiritual needs. (1 Cor. 10.13)

**CONCLUSION:** God demonstrated His providence by sending Jesus.

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*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*  
-Mark 16.15

**April 19, 2026**

### MEETING TIMES:

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**

**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM**

## Against You Only Have I Sinned

That's a curious statement. It was made by David in Psalm 51. It is in this psalm that David was overwhelmed by the guilt of his sins and cried out, *"Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight"* (Ps. 51.4). What makes this so curious is that the guilt that troubled David was in reference to his sins against Bathsheba and Uriah the Hittite.

If you review the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel, you will remember this account in chapter 11. It is here that you read about David knowingly committing adultery. He knew that she was married (2 Sam. 11.3). But, he still sent for her and *"he lay with her"* (2 Sam. 11.4). He then compounded his sin by trying to trick her husband Uriah and ultimately murdering him by the hand of the Philistines (2 Sam. 11.15). Afterwards, he writes this psalm with a heart that is utterly broken begging for God's forgiveness saying, *"Against You, You only, have I sinned."* How can he say that?

Simply put, sinning against your fellow man is to sin against God. When you hurt someone, God takes it very personally. When you lie to someone, you are lying to God. When you choose not to be sensitive to someone's conscience, *"you sin against Christ"* (1 Cor. 8.12). No matter what you think of someone, it is someone God loves and someone for whom Christ died (1 Cor. 8.11; Matt. 25.40,45). Let that thought guide our words and actions toward others. CLP

## BECOMING A SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT

### Acts 4:36

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Joses was so good at encouragement that the apostles gave him the nickname, "Barnabas" (Acts 4.36)
2. Encouragement (paraklesis): Go to the side of one calling for help. Other words include euthumos, eupsuchoe, and oikodomeo.
3. We need to be people who are encouraging one another in what we say, so they can be stirred up to give glory to God.

#### I. WHO NEEDS TO BE ENCOURAGING?

- A. All three deities are encouraging.
  1. The Father believes in being encouraging. (2 Cor. 1.3,4)
  2. The Son believes in being encouraging. (John 14.16)
  3. The Spirit believes in being encouraging. (John 14.26)
- B. We all need to be encouraging.
  1. Elders need to be encouraging. (2 Cor. 13.10)
  2. Preachers need to be encouraging. (1 Tim. 4.13)
  3. The brethren need to be encouraging. (1 Thess. 5.11)
- C. Where is encouragement encouraged?
  1. In the worship of the church. (1 Cor. 14.3-5,12,26,31)
  2. In the way that we speak. (Eph. 4.29)
  3. In the sympathy we show. (1 Thess. 4.18)

#### II. HOW CAN I BE MORE ENCOURAGING?

- A. Be accepting of those who have differing opinions.
  1. **ROMANS 14.1:** "receive him" (cf. Rom. 15.7; 14.19)
  2. When the Gentiles learned they would be accepted, they "rejoiced over its encouragement" (Acts 15.31)
- B. Be more loving toward others.
  1. **1 Corinthians 8.1:** "love edifies"
  2. It is encouraging to know that there are people who care about you. But do they know you care? (Col. 2.2)
- C. Help others have the hope of a better tomorrow.
  1. Consolation and comfort give hope. (2 Thess. 2.16,17)
  2. We have hope for life to come. (Heb. 6.18,19)

**CONCLUSION:** Let's try to find good things to say about others.

## The High Cost of Discipleship

Have you ever considered what it truly costs to follow Jesus? In a world that constantly encourages us to "find ourselves" or "treat ourselves," the message of the gospel demands a different path. In Luke 9:23, Jesus lays out the non-negotiable terms of discipleship: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Contextually, Jesus just revealed to His apostles that His mission involved suffering, rejection, and death (Luke 9.22). If the Master was to suffer, the servants could expect nothing less. Consider these three requirements for walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

First, we must deny ourselves. The phrase "deny himself" comes from the Greek word *aparneomai*. The prefix *apo* means "away from," and *arneomai* means "to refuse or deny." In this context, it describes a person who completely disowns himself and his own interests to submit to the will of another. It is the same word used to describe Peter's denial of Jesus in the courtyard (Luke 22.34). To deny yourself is to relinquish your right to be comfortable or served. It means choosing to use our limited energy to serve a brother or sister rather than focusing solely on our own ailments or preferences. We must say "no" to our own will so we can say "yes" to God's.

Second, we must take up the cross. The cross is not a piece of jewelry or a religious symbol. It was an instrument of execution. Taking up a cross meant you were on a one way journey to death (cf. Gal. 2.20). Taking up the cross daily means a persistent, everyday commitment to the Lord's priorities. For the mature Christian, this might mean the "cross" of enduring chronic pain with a spirit of grace rather than complaint. It might mean the cross of consistently showing up for worship when it would be easier to stay home.

Third, we must follow Him. The word "follow" indicates a journey. It carries the idea of walking the same path as a leader. Jesus does not ask us to go anywhere He has not already gone. He demonstrated perfect humility, mercy, and obedience to the Father throughout His life. Following Jesus means our character should increasingly mirror His. It means becoming more merciful and less petty, even when we feel we have a right to be offended. It means looking toward the "better things to come" rather than being anchored to the treasures of this world. We follow Him through this life all the way into eternity.

The path of discipleship is not an easy one, but it is the only one that leads to life. We cannot have the crown without the cross. True hope and fellowship with God are found only when we are willing to lose our lives for His sake.