

2 Corinthians

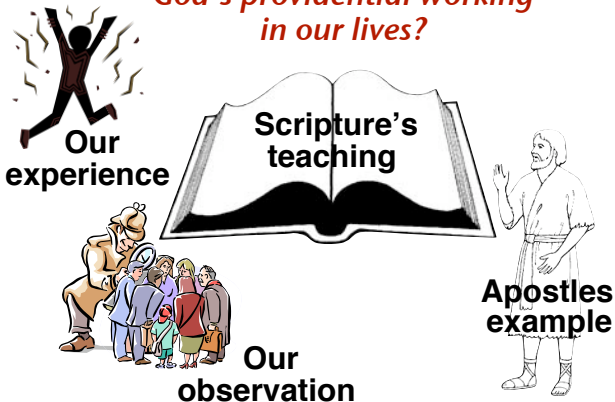
11:30-33

How much can we expect
Divine Intervention
in our circumstances?

Most common mistakes people make in their expectations of God's working in life.

- ✓ Assume that an experience will beat any argument
- ✓ Confuse descriptive and prescriptive Scriptures
- ✓ Expect God to serve our agenda not His
- ✓ Expect God to work outside us rather than within us

How should we come to understand God's providential working in our lives?



Some distinctions

God's design (plan)

GOD'S DECREE (PREDESTINATION)

God's demonstration (providence)

natural action (normal nature)

unnatural action (natural means for unnatural ends)

supernatural action (unnatural means and ends)

Supernatural

Acts 3:2-8

Unnatural

Acts 2:23

Acts 4:27-28

Unnatural + Interpretation

Acts 16:6-10

Natural

Acts 9:23-25

2 Corinthians 11

“³⁰ If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, ³³ and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.”

2 Corinthians 11

“³⁰ If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.”

***God's providence
is strength to our weakness.***

2 Corinthians 12:10

“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**”

2 Corinthians 11

“³² In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me,”

***God's providence
is strength to our weakness
as we face hard circumstances.***

2 Corinthians 11

“³³ and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.”

***God's providence
is strength to our weakness
as we face hard circumstances
that call for a creative response.***

natural action (normal nature)
unnatural action (natural means for unnatural ends)
supernatural action (unnatural means and ends)

Philippians 2:12-13

“So then my beloved, Just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work **in you**, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

How is God present in natural circumstances?

1. God works through our inner response.
2. God works through our values & priorities.
3. God works through our wisdom & insight.
4. God works through the Christian community.

What should I expect from God?

- ✓ Don't expect dramatic miracles to be God's **primary** way of working.
- ✓ Be **thankful** for the **mundane** hand of God.
- ✓ Take **responsibility** to respond to the circumstances of life with creativity, character, and faith in God's **“inner”** working.
- ✓ Expect God to work in and through your **response** to life's ups and downs.