

Daily Prayer

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Today's prayer is based on the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth questions and answers of the Heidelberg Catechism, 1563. The first question is: What do you understand by the providence of God?

*Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God
by which he upholds, as with his hand,
heaven and earth and all creatures,
and so rules them that
leaf and blade,
rain and drought,
fruitful and lean years,
food and drink,
health and sickness,
prosperity and poverty -
all things, in fact, come to us
not by chance
but from his fatherly hand.*

Heavenly Father, you fill heaven and earth,
there is nowhere to go to escape your presence.
Your dynamic presence holds the universe together.
You are both far and away above your creation
and at the same time intimately present within it,
down to the last atomic particle.
You need nothing, but you provide life and breath and everything -
and you are not far from any one of us.
You uphold the universe by the word of your power.
Nothing that lives lives independently of you.
In you we live and move and have our being.
New growth, rain, drought, fullness, famine,
food, drink, health, sickness, prosperity, poverty -
You govern it all, and distribute according to your will and purpose.

The follow-up question is:
How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

*We can be patient when things go against us,
thankful when things go well,
and for the future we can have
good confidence in our faithful God and Father
that nothing will separate us from his love.
All creatures are so completely in his hand
that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.*

Give me understanding so that I can be
patient when things go poorly,
thankful when things go well,
confident because of your faithfulness and fatherly care
that nothing will separate me from your love.
Father, all creatures are so completely in your hand
that without your will they can neither move nor be moved.
Build this into me in my inner being
for Jesus and his kingdom's sake. Amen.

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Prayers will never reach God unless they are founded on free mercy.and

- John Calvin