

Providence as the Hand of God (Q/A 26–27; Psalm 104)  
GCC, 4/10/22, Adult Catechism Class

Catechesis

Q. 27: *What is the providence of God?*

A.

The almighty power of God, everywhere present  
whereby He does, as it were, by his hand, uphold and govern  
heaven  
and earth  
with all creatures therein,  
so that those things which grow in the earth, as likewise  
rain and drought,  
fruitfulness and barrenness,  
meat and drink,  
health and sickness,  
riches and poverty—  
in a word, all things come  
not rashly and by chance  
but by His fatherly counsel and will

Q. 27. *What does this knowledge of the creation and providence of God profit us?*

A.

That in adversity we may be patient,  
And thankful in prosperity,  
And have hereafter our chief hope  
Reposed in God our most faithful Father.  
We can be sure that there is nothing which may withdraw us from His love,  
Forasmuch as all creatures are so in His power,  
That without His will they are not able not only to do anything,  
but not so much as once to move.

- I. A Definition of Providence (Romans 8:28)
  - A. Creation implies providence and providence presupposes creation
  - B. The Salient Features of Providence
    - 1. Sustaining (Preservation)
    - 2. Governing unto a particular *end/purpose*
  - C. Providence illustrated (Gen 50:20)
- II. Providence as the Hand of God
  - A. An Invisible Hand

- B. An omnipotent hand
  - 1. We are hopeful in the future
- C. A seemingly uneven hand (Qoh 9:11)
  - 1. We are thankful in prosperity
- D. A chastening hand (Ps 104:29)
  - 1. We are patient in adversity

III. Bound Hands

- A. Christ Bound for you
- B. May we be bound to Christ