

## PROVIDENCE AND PLANNING

### Can These Work Together?

Even the most veteran teachers will admit that sometimes lessons don't go according to plan. No matter how much we put into the "perfect" lesson, unknown factors occasionally force us to change course. What we planned simply didn't work. What happens in the classroom happens in life, too. We get a plan, attempt to execute the plan, and then for *some reason*, our plan fails. That *some reason* is often God's providence.

Providence is God's use of His power and authority to bring about an ultimate purpose for the universe that cannot fail. If we truly believe this, we might be tempted to quit planning altogether. However, that is not what the Bible teaches. Let's take a look at what God's Word reveals about how planning and providence work together.

Read [Proverbs 16:9](#), [19:21](#), and [21:30](#) in the New Living Translation.

*Who is doing the planning in these verses?*

*Who determines if our plan is successful?*

*How important is planning in your own life? How do you feel when a well-executed plan fails?*

Read [Proverbs 16:3](#) and [Matthew 6:33](#).

*What insight do these verses provide regarding our planning?*

Planning is important. The providence of God should energize us to boldly plan, taking Spirit-led steps of faith. When we truly believe in the providence of God, we won't be discouraged by failed plans. Instead, we will be thankful for how God is guiding, directing, and using us for His kingdom purposes.

Read [Psalm 139:16](#).

*How does this truth sum up the connection between providence and planning?*

Educators are planners, and that is a good thing! God expects us to be effective and efficient in our work. At the same time, however, we must remember that God is ultimately in control. He is putting the puzzle pieces of our lives together as we plan and obey his statutes. Remain tied to His Word, keep in step with the Holy Spirit, and trust Him to providentially take care of the details.

*Dear Lord, thank You that I don't have to have everything figured out. I know everything that comes my way has passed through Your fingers first. There are no coincidences in this life. Help me to see You in all of my circumstances. Help me, Lord, to trust that You will direct my steps in ways that will ultimately usher in Your will. I trust You, Lord. In Jesus name, Amen.*

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.* Romans 8:28