## **God Directs Our Steps**

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 8/1/2015

There is no doubt among the people of God that in the beginning God acted in a great way. God was active and involved as He began creating the world and working with mankind.

Genesis 1:2 ... The Spirit of God **moved** upon the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; The Sun and the moon.. and the stars.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:

God **directly intervened** in the life of Adam and Eve. Without God's Spirit, man quickly turned to wickedness and sin. God took direct and stern action and obliterated the sinners. We find ourselves today in similar brutal and lawless days. Jesus said of that time:

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark.

Matthew 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

We see that God was about to act decisively again:

1Peter 3:20 ... eight souls were saved by water. [Noah and family]

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Genesis 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for I repent that I have made them in the first place.

It was so bad that it seems God was having second thoughts about His Plan to bring sons and daughters into Glory of His family. Do we realize that we have come to this exact same point again?

Genesis 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Genesis 6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was **corrupt**; for all flesh had corrupted **His way** upon the earth.

**His way** – where can we find God's way today?

Genesis 6:13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

So Noah built the ark as God had said: We are looking at a few examples of God's **hands on** intervention.

Gen 7:16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the **Lord shut him in**.

God is about to close the door again: These are the words of Jesus Christ in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins:

Matthew 25:10 And while [the foolish unprepared virgins] went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready **went in with him** to the marriage: and **the door was shut**.

God does not change. That should be a wakeup call to every one of us. We are about to enter the period of time the Bible refers to as "Jacob's trouble" – and it will be the sequel to the worldwide destruction of Noah's day. Jesus speaking again said:

Mark 13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved alive: but for the elect's sake, whom He hath **chosen**. He hath **shortened** the days.

How short are our days – before it is **too late** to order our lives?

Romans 9:26 And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.

Romans 9:27 Isaiah also cried out concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **a remnant** shall be saved:

That means that out of millions and billions of people – only a small number shall be saved out of the tribulation.

Romans 9:28 For he will finish the work, and **cut it short** in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

Romans 9:29 And as Isaiah said before, Except the Lord of [hosts] Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodom, and been made like unto Gomorrah.

God took swift action there and wiped Sodom and Gomorrah off the face of the earth to this day.

This sermon is about God's hands on involvement in the concerns of man - **God Directs Our Steps**.

God directly **altered** the course of events in the lives of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph – the father of Ephriam and Manasseh – the progenitors of the British and American peoples. Then God called Israel out of Egypt and smote all the Egyptian firstborn. He totally disrupted Egypt's society, and family structures.

Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will **smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt**, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Exodus 12:17 And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

We are looking at instances of God's direct intervention.

Exodus 13:3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for **by strength of hand the LORD brought you out** from this place:

Exodus 13:9 And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for **with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt**.

That is an example of a hands-on action to bring about God's will in the affairs of an entire nation. Israel became a great nation. The Bible is largely a history book about Israel. We see that at other times God works directly with **individuals** <u>like us</u>. We do not want to overlook how, in the Scriptures, God is also **dealing** in the **personal** lives of His people.

Abraham is a key person in the Plan of God. He was different from everyone else on earth. It wasn't his power, wealth or reputation – it was his **faith** that set him apart. He totally **believed** what God said.

We see that where Abraham's nephew, Lot, chose the best land for himself — Abraham did not argue, — and God blessed Abraham all the same... Abraham knew that God was **directing the events** of his life. Each day he only had to respond in Godliness to each and every situation that arose. Let's jump forward in time a few generations. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, then Joseph. Joseph lived approximately 250 years before Moses and the Exodus — and yet Joseph's life impacted that of Moses greatly. Let's look briefly at how God was continuously working behind the scene to **direct the steps** of Joseph.

If there was one line that describes the life and times of Joseph – it would be that one line from Phantom and the Opera, "Things like that just don't happen." Joseph's life is an **incredible** story of God **directing** Joseph's **steps** – most of the time unbeknownst to Joseph.

The purpose of this sermon is to highlight the fact that God is with us – directing our steps. God directs our steps. Brethren, there are times when we forget that God is with us. That is what "Immanuel" means: God is with us.

Acts 7:9 And the patriarchs [sons of Jacob / Israel], moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but **God was with him**.

"God was with him." To what extent did Joseph realize that God was with him?

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob certainly knew that God was with them – but how well that was passed on to the children of Jacob was not evidenced by the actions of Joseph's older brothers who sought his demise. We must understand that "God is with us" today every bit as much as He was with Joseph. Let's review a few of the happenstances in the life of Joseph. Much of the time Joseph could **not** see God's hand in his life.

God was with Joseph, but what must have been going through Joseph's mind?

Acts 7:10 And delivered [Joseph] **out of all <u>his afflictions</u>**, and gave him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

God had promised Abraham that He would make of him a great nation – beginning in the Promised Land with millions of his children. When Jacob reluctantly moved down to Egypt to be with Joseph there were only 75 descendents of Abraham.

Acts 7:14 ... Seventy-five souls in all – that was all of Israel's offspring in Egypt.

Acts 7:17 But when the time of the promise [Promised Land] drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people **grew** and **multiplied** in Egypt.

In a few hundred years time Israel grew to some three million people strong.

I want to go back to verse :10 where the Scripture says that God delivered Joseph **out of all his afflictions**.

**God was with Joseph** and delivered him out of **all <u>his afflictions</u>** – what were those afflictions? When Joseph was only 17 years old he reported to his father, Jacob, the details of how evil his brothers were.

Genesis 37:2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their **evil** report.

The older brothers were not living their lives as Jacob had taught them. Like so many – they knew better – but, they just would not live right. Those brothers, all children of Israel, conspired with one another to kill Joseph.

Genesis 37:18 And when they saw [Joseph] afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to **slay** him.

Genesis 37:22 And Reuben [the firstborn son of Jacob] said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this **pit** [a dry water well :24] that is in the wilderness.

Genesis 37:28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph **into Egypt**.

Genesis 37:31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood.

Genesis 37:32 And they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or not.

Those children of Israel, sons of Jacob, were so **cruel** and heartless.

Genesis 37:34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

The Bible goes into the intricate details of Joseph's life. I'm sure that when Joseph was at the bottom of the dry well – knowing the proclivities of his evil brothers as he did – Joseph did not think to himself, "Everything is going along in God's Plan according to schedule." He had the fears, doubts and temptations of any man. Joseph feared for his life.

Joseph was being used mightily by God – but at the time God's Plan for him personally was unbeknownst to Joseph. Now, you know the rest of the story about how Joseph prospered... But this history is recorded for our profit. You and I, brethren, are individually very important to the Plan of God – even if we can't see it yet – believe it!

As time went on, Joseph began to realize that God was thoroughly involved in his life, and that God had **interceded** on his behalf many times. Joseph was an instrument in God's hand to do His bidding – but he had no inkling of God's extensive plan to make him the father of England and America in the distant future.

Genesis 37:36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Genesis 39:2 And the **LORD was with Joseph**, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. [Potiphar]

Genesis 39:3 And his master saw that the **LORD was with him**, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Genesis 39:5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the **blessing of the LORD was upon all** that he had in the house, and in the field.

God was **directing the steps** of Joseph. Potiphar trusted Joseph implicitly and absolutely.

Genesis 39:6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favored.

But Potifor's wife was a trouble maker and Joseph ended up in a Egyptian prison.

Genesis 39:19 And it came to pass, when [Joseph's] master, [Potiphar] heard the words of his wife, which she spoke unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

Genesis 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

Genesis 39:21 But the **LORD was with Joseph**, and showed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand; because the **LORD was with him**, and that which he did, the **LORD made it to prosper**.

Still, Joseph was in jail – and that was troubling and perturbing to Joseph. It certainly did not appear to Joseph that he was the Key to the Promised Land for a great people. Brethren, we need to remind ourselves daily that we too, are on a journey to the Family of God and the Kingdom of God with the Lord directing our steps. Especially when things stall in our lives – we need to be mindful that **God directs our steps**.

Occasionally Joseph lost sight of God directing his life. Joseph explains his plight, saying **I'm innocent** of all charge:

Genesis 40:15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I **done nothing** that they should put me into the dungeon.

Joseph did not see God **directing his steps** – as we are able to do in hind-sight. There is a good chance that we too will experience trials before we are able to see where God is taking us. Joseph languished in that prison for another two full years before he was restored to his high position in Pharaoh court. But Joseph did not cease to give God the credit.

Genesis 41:16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me [to interpret a dream]: **God shall give** Pharaoh an answer of peace.

And peace came into Joseph's life – he married and began a family.

Genesis 41:51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn **Manasseh**: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

That young child, Manasseh, made the entire affliction that Joseph had endured – worthwhile. "Manasseh" – it does not seem like such an important point, but without Manasseh there would be no United States of America, nor you or me.

Genesis 41:52 And the name of the second boy called he **Ephraim**: For **God hath caused me to be fruitful** in the land of my affliction.

England, and her colonies worldwide exist today because of this child of Joseph's, "**Ephraim**." "**God** hath caused me to be fruitful – Joseph gives God the credit for everything. The blessings bestowed on England and then America – population, industry, ingenuity, bountiful land and fruitful climate...

We are reading not only the details of preparations God was bring about for the Children of Israel to exist – and to go into the Promised Land – we are seeing in advance how God is working **today** to bring His people, Spiritual Israel, into the Family of God and the Kingdom of God.

After the incredible story of Joseph and his brothers in Egypt – when Joseph reveals himself as their brother – Joseph reveals how it was God who had **orchestrated the entire epoch**. He says to his brothers:

Genesis 45:5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for **God did send me** before you to preserve life.

That clearly was **divine intervention** for the greater purpose of God's Plan.

Genesis 45:7 And **God sent me** before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Genesis 45:8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, **but God**: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Our Patriarch Jacob was hard to convince – so God **intervened** to convince Israel to go down into Egypt to be with Joseph.

Genesis 46:3 And [the lord] said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:

There are two things that God is doing – first: He is working on the large scale of the magnitude of nations...

Secondly, at the same time, God is working to direct the individual lives of each and every **one** of His children. Both Macro management of the universe and nations, and unseen Micro management in the affairs of everyone called by God.

The **title** of today's sermon comes from:

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart devises his way: but the **LORD directs his steps**.

This verse is saying that we can decide, and plan, and work toward an end – but it is God who determines the outcome. In his heart a man plans his own course of action, but the LORD **determines his steps**. We are talking about how involved God is in preparing the way for our entrance into the Millennial Kingdom and Family of God?

Psalm 37:23 The steps of a **good man** are <u>ordered</u> [established] by the LORD: and he delights in his way.

Psalm 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

And then the Psalmist gives us an example of God's **minute involvement** in our lives.

Psalm 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his children begging bread.

God is always there directing our steps – especially when we **do not know it** in some situations. We come to a fork in the road and we do not know which way to go...

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is **not in himself**: it is not in man that walks to **direct his steps**.

We do not inherently know how to live our lives in accordance with what God would have us choose. We might think that we know – but the answers are not within us. God tells us the way we should go.

Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall **direct thy paths**.

God knows what we do not know – He is able to direct our steps. The Lord directs the steps of a person by His Spirit.

I saw a new product on the market the other day. It was a combination fly-swatter and bug zapper. Instead of smashing a bug –the bug just gets zapped! With a spark and a BAZZZZAPPT!

When I was a child I was raised in the Roman Catholic faith. And I got the impression that God was up there just waiting for me to step out of line so that He could BAZZZZAPPT me! That teaching was so far from the truth of our loving Father who has only **good** plans for us to be His everlasting children in His immediate family.

Some people cannot see God's hand in anything – and that is a fault. A part of our thankfulness and appreciation to God is the recognition of the many; many times He has intervened personally in our lives. We would not be here except for the times of God's direct involvement to direct our steps.

We could have been killed in accidents...

We could have died because of some infectious disease...

We could have been a victim of some terrible scheme or plot...

We should take note and **keep a record** of the times when we've said, "If God had not stepped in when He did to prevent such-n-such – I wouldn't be here!" Have you ever been on what you thought could have been your death bed – or times that you nearly lost everything you had. Count up the times when God has directed your path – number them. 4-5-6...

Then, multiply that number by the hundreds of times that we were **unaware** of God's **divine providence** in our lives:

He made sure that we got the job that was sorely needed...

The car kept going when it should have died then and there...

We didn't get hit by lightening, or shot by accident...

God gave us length of years when so many succumbed at an early age...

We didn't get bit by a poisonous snake or killed by a Black Widow spider...

That is why we pray, "Deliver us from evil."

Psalm 91:3 Surely He shall **deliver** thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

God intervenes and gives us His Protection: As a mother **chicken** securely shields her little bitty chicks.

Psalm 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

I try to look back at the many times God has directed my steps – when I thought that I was the one deciding what to do. Personal example here:

There were those who tried to prevent our going to Ambassador College – but God had other plans. I had worked an entire career in the welding of alloys and structural steel fabrication industry. We had been listening to "The World Tomorrow" radio program since (1964) the year after we were married. We had already sent some of our children off to Ambassador College to receive an education that was unique. We sold our business, property, home, cars, everything and moved to Big Sandy in a U-Haul type rental truck.

I would **not** have done that had I known that Herbert W. Armstrong was soon to die – and the entire Worldwide Church of God go off into apostasy. But I was doing what I wanted to do **with all my heart**.

We saw how in: Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart devises his way:

I wanted badly to know the Scriptures and what they meant – and I concluded that Ambassador College was the way to accomplish that. I did well at Ambassador College – and I was hired into the ministry and placed in the Auditorium at Pasadena as my first assignment.

It seemed then that the Worldwide Church of God would grow and grow until the return of Christ – and I would be a part of it until the very end. But that was leaving out the second part of Proverbs 16:9.

In very short order I was fired and disfellowshipped – the very first minister fired – for continuing to contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude :3).

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart devises his way: **BUT** the **LORD directs his steps**.

God had other plans. As far as God was concerned, the Worldwide Church of God had run its course. Worldwide could have done better:

We could have **pointed** our people to **God** Himself – more than we did.

We could have taught and demonstrated Godly love for one another more than we did.

God pulled the plug on Worldwide because that was His will. With regard to course of the spiritual progression of the Church brethren – it was God who ultimately **directed** the outcome. We thought it was a **bad** thing when Worldwide Church of God failed – but God thought it **good**. There was much deciding, growing, learning, and overcoming that God knew we needed. Things in the Church changed drastically. We were all separated and scattered – for what purpose?

Now I try diligently to **share** everything we were privileged to **learn** about the Word of God with **all the** brethren who have ears to hear – even those who are half-way around the world. Please never make the mistake of **blaming** God when things go wrong – that is decidedly a lack of Faith.

**Time and chance** do not happen to the True Children of God. God takes care of us as a loving father loves his child.

Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Luke 11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your **heavenly Father** give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

We are "bullet proof" until God completes His work in us! He will never leave us or forsake His child (Hebrews 13:5). God is involved much more than we know. When we draw near to God we are safely in His hands. Nothing is going to come between God and those He holds to be His own.

The prayers that please God are the ones that are according to His will with regard to what is right. That is why Paul says:

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

God is directing the outcome.

Romans 8:27 And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that **love God**, to them who are the **called** according to his purpose.

Oh, It did not seem **good** to us when Worldwide came apart at the seams – but we needed to learn that our faith is much more than loyalty to a man and an organization.

God has great plans for each of us – as we saw He did for Joseph.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, **them he also called**: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

The world's theologians and pastors believe in heaven as the reward of the saved, and hell as the eternal punishment for those not chosen by God. They think that God capriciously and whimsically chooses **some people** for eternal reward – and others He created to burn in hell. Here is a **direct quote** from a Protestant theologian:

"People go to hell because they fail to choose to believe in Jesus Christ. That is their freewill choice. God doesn't force them to choose or to not choose, however God knows exactly who will and who will not choose and has disposed them to do so."

What a strange and **cruel** god they believe in. They think that "God chooses some people to burn in hell." Their minds are not open to God's truth – so they conclude that some men are **predestined** for hell fire! God is **not** capricious and whimsical – He is a loving God. The Protestant world does not understand what God has said – that this is "<u>a</u> day of salvation for those God is calling **now**." This is not "<u>the</u> day of salvation for **all** mankind."

God is calling a special people who are accountable to Him at this time, out of this present evil world – to overcome self, society and Satan.

Isaiah 49:8 Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in **a day of salvation** have I helped thee. (That is correct! – **A** day)

Please note that Isaiah 49:8 is **correct** in the King James translation.

Isaiah 49:8 Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in **a day** of salvation have I helped thee.

1Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own **order**: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must **begin** at the house of God.

Judgment is **now** for the Church of God – but the judgment of the world will come **later** – the time the bible refers to as the Last Great Day. The King James translators did not understand the plan of God – and now and then their misunderstandings came out in their translations. This mistake is easily corrected by comparing the Old Testament to the New.

The King James translators let their bias come into their translation here. Notice how Isaiah is misquoted:

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in <u>the</u> day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is <u>the</u> day of salvation. (<u>the</u> is a wrong translation.)

If you have not done so – please mark your bible accordingly. The correct translation is "an accepted time, and **a day** of salvation," like this:

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in  $\underline{\mathbf{a}}$  day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is  $\underline{\mathbf{a}}$  day of salvation. ( $\underline{\mathbf{a}}$  is the correct translation.)

That is because God is not trying to save the entire world right now – If He were – we'd have to conclude that He is failing miserably. God is calling only a **select** – special people – for a very special purpose right now.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar [very special] people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath **called you out** of darkness into his marvelous light:

Galatians 1:3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:4 Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is **not slack** concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.

"Not slack" - means there is a time span and an order of salvation to be considered. But eventually all men should come to repentance.

Proverbs 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Proverbs 19:21 There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless **the counsel** of the LORD, that shall stand.

We should always ask ourselves, "What are our goals; and what is the correct way to achieve them? As we become more and more converted and led by God's Spirit we seek not only God's **will**, but His **way** of doing things as well. We are to live our lives as though everything depends on us. We plan for our future – and then we do our best to follow through. We do not leave it to God to make sure that everything works out well – we must first live Godly lives, and God will do His part.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to **whom be glory** forever.

We make the best decisions we possibly can – especially with prayer – deciding what to do and which way to go about it according to God's will.

Maybe we didn't win the lottery – but God has given us the rewards of the grand prize of **life** – and having a right relationship with Him. God is working **actively** to direct the events of our lives toward the establishment of His Kingdom in so many ways it is truly astounding. That is why we pray, "Thy will be done."

With God as our **Protector** we are **impervious** to danger.

Psalm 91:5 Thou shalt **not** be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flies by day.

1John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us:

1John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

God will spare and deliver from suffering and hardship whom-so-ever He will according to His great transcendent purpose. He hears our prayer when we call upon Him, and we know in faith that He always does what is best and right for us. God directs our steps. That is why we seek and desire His will, and not our own way. Make no mistake about it – God is totally aware and He interacts at just the right **time**.

When we think that God has not answered our prayers, it does not mean that God does not hear, it means God is waiting for the perfect time to intervene.

End: God Directs our Steps