

## Key passages

Because this Session occupies just 29 paragraphs and is divided into 8 short sections, perhaps you can read all the paragraphs during this month. Read just one section at a time and think about it for a day or two before going on.

## Prayer and Reflections

Each section in this lesson speaks directly to the heart, so it is suitable for quiet, wordless meditation as we take in, with a sense of awe, the realisation how close the Lord is to us. Yet He always respects our freedom, even when we sometimes turn away from Him. Meditate also on your inner freedom and rationality and see how you use them without ever abusing them.

Christopher Hasler

# United Search for Divine Providence



## Session 4

**There are laws of the Divine Providence,  
and these are unknown to men.**

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### The 5 Laws of Divine Providence (DP 70-99)

In this session we shall examine the first of these 5 major laws in 8 subsections. It may come as a surprise that the Lord should be acting according to laws. But when we look around us, we realise that nature functions according to laws, otherwise only chaos would reign. These laws are in fact our security and maintain order.

#### **1 That man should act from freedom according to reason.** (DP 70-73)

Our Creator maintains within us the freedom to wish and to think as we like. He also gives us rationality that we may learn to exercise our freedom sensibly. Our individual liberty is the key to our life and the Lord guards it as the pupil of His eye. See Deuteronomy 32:10, Psalm 17:8. This is the main key to understanding our personality. But this freedom comes at a price, since we can't blame others for what we do. We are responsible for all the choices we make and the Lord does not step in to stop us doing something foolish or evil, or we would never learn right from wrong. The Lord constantly 'provides' (the root word in 'Providence') that we should be in an equilibrium between good and evil, but He does not interfere in our decisions. Hard on us? But that is what makes us 'human' – we have spiritual freedom, whatever we make of it.

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Click on Resources and then United Search for Divine Providence

**2 What we do in freedom and with reason appears to be our very own. (DP 74-77)**

This section opens with a fascinating revelation comparing animals with humans. Animals have no rational thought, but they have 'knowledge' sufficient for survival and procreation which we usually call instinct. They have no concept of time, especially of the future. To endow them with human thought is to misunderstand them. (74) We are very different and it is worth spending some time in realising the wonder of our 'human' capacities: abstract thought, concept of time - past and future - and the wide choices we have. (75) The great wonder is that we feel that these thoughts are our very own, but unless we felt this we would have no joy or pleasure in any knowledge. What an insight into our psyche! The 20th Century produced many psychiatric schools of thought, but when they dismiss the hand of God in creation, and deny man's immortality, then they are missing the key to understanding the purpose of human existence.

**3 Whatever we do in freedom appears to be our very own. (DP78-81)**

Who has ever had such a deep insight into the human mind? What we do or receive in freedom becomes a part of us. However, whatever we are forced to do under compulsion is not appropriated. What a relief! Millions are forced to conform and do most horrible things or have to submit to them. Yet none of these becomes a part of their inner personality. They are discarded as muddy garments. Divine justice is full of love - cherish this magnificent truth! Read Matthew 5:27-30, Revelation 3:1-6.

**4 We are regenerated by means of our liberty and rationality. (DP82-86)**

So few understand what is meant by being born again or regenerated. Most assume that God in His mercy forgives our past and we are 'saved'. It is not quite so simple! Why? Because unless we want to be different, the Lord will not impose anything on us because He will never interfere with our free will. We are all born into many evil inclinations inherited from our ancestors and we have to put these evils behind us. The Lord cannot wipe the slate clean without our consent! Read Genesis 6-9 the story of the Flood. Our own roots go back to that correspondential story. It is still with us.

**5 Our reason teaches that anything good and true can only come from the Lord and not from ourselves. (DP87-91)**

A simple question: Where does our power to see, hear or speak come from? From our eyes or brain? No, this ability comes from the Lord's Love and Wisdom. It is as simple as that. Read esp. 88 and also Mark 4:26-34. We only reap the harvest of love!

**6 How conjunction with the Lord comes about. (DP92-95)**

The Lord said, "Abide in me, and I in you." John 15:4 This is not a conditional love on His part. He is always abiding in us otherwise we would not be! Take note of this in 91:2: "Love wills to be loved: this is inherent in it; and so far as love is loved in return it is in its own delight." John 15:10-11: have you ever dared to think that when we love the Lord - His love is delighted? Yet this is our experience in all our relationships, so why leave the Lord out?

**7 The Lord regards our freedom and rationality as sacred. (DP96)**

This is because our whole life and personality depend on these two human faculties which differentiate us from animals. Without them we would not be human nor have immortal life. It is as simple as that! Read Genesis 2:1-7

**8 It is of Providence that man should act freely and rationally. (DP97-99)**

This summarises the whole section, but mentions that 'infernal freedom' is not really freedom, but only slavery, and its reasoning is false. But since it is the person's choice, it is of Providence that those who choose such a life have a right to live it. Interesting insight into the mentality of atheists in 99: they can still understand angelic wisdom when in the company of angels, but this is discarded when they return into their own environment. So beware what company you keep here on earth!