

just say words over and over. In other words, it is not important these exact words; it's these ideas that God wants to get to us. Suppose those words aren't in Scripture. There are plenty of other places which teach us that the glory and power belongs to God.

We don't question that whether they are in the Lord's Prayer or not. Some people raise a big question about the end of the Gospel of Mark. I don't think the Gospel of Mark ends with the words "and they were sore afraid." But it is true some of the early MSS stopped there. The last page must have gotten torn off. From the MSS they were copying. I believe there was an ending. Now is the original ending what we have? Or did somebody take the Gospel of Luke and simply summarize it putting an ending here? I don't know!

But every fact given in that in that ending to the Gospel of Mark is in the Gos. of Luke. So we know it's all true whether it belongs in Mark or not. Every fact except one--and that is "they shall take up serpents." and not be hurt. Well, is that not true. What did Paul do at Malta? He picked up a serpent and they all thought he would die, and he didn't. So that verse has been fulfilled. So the end of the Gospel of Mark is true. It doesn't say that everybody who picks up a serpent is not going to be injured. It did happen in the case of Paul. It happens whenever God chooses it to. God can protect us as He chooses.

That was the first great work of Providence. God has so led that we can be sure we are very close to the original. We are close enough to get the truths God wants us to have and not to get anything out of the Bible carefully examined that is not what God intends us to get from it.

The second work of Providence of course relates to the words. Here it is important (to realize) the nature of language is such that if we had the words absolutely in this particular form, still we might not know what they mean because the meaning of words is constantly changing. It is amazing how in my short lifetime many words have changed their meaning. When I was a boy we had a frightful thunderstorm, we would say, That was terrific! If somebody lost everything he had, we'd say, Oh that's terrific! And about 20 years ago I was asked to speak to a group of students at the U. of PA and the young man came asking what subjects I would take. I said, What would you think of this subject and of this subject, etc. and this in the a.m. and this in the p.m. and he said, Oh that's terrific! I said, Oh my I'd better take other subjects! He thinks they are all terrific!

Almost anybody today over 60 I think when they say "terrific" they mean "terrible." Almost anybody under 60 today if they say "terrific" they mean "wonderful." That's only one example of the way the meaning of words is changing. But God by His providence has caused that evidence should be available to us as to the understanding and meaning of these words in a most wonderful way. These are the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ three great miracles as I understand them and the two great works of providence that God has worked to