



# HARD KNOCKS

AND THE PATHWAY  
TO HOPE

# Acts 16:6-10

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.** When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, **but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.** So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, **we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.**



**The Tension of:**  
**God's Providence**  
**& Human Performance**

# What is God's Providence

- God's activity throughout history in providing for the needs of human beings, especially those who follow him in faith.
- God's provision; based in the future



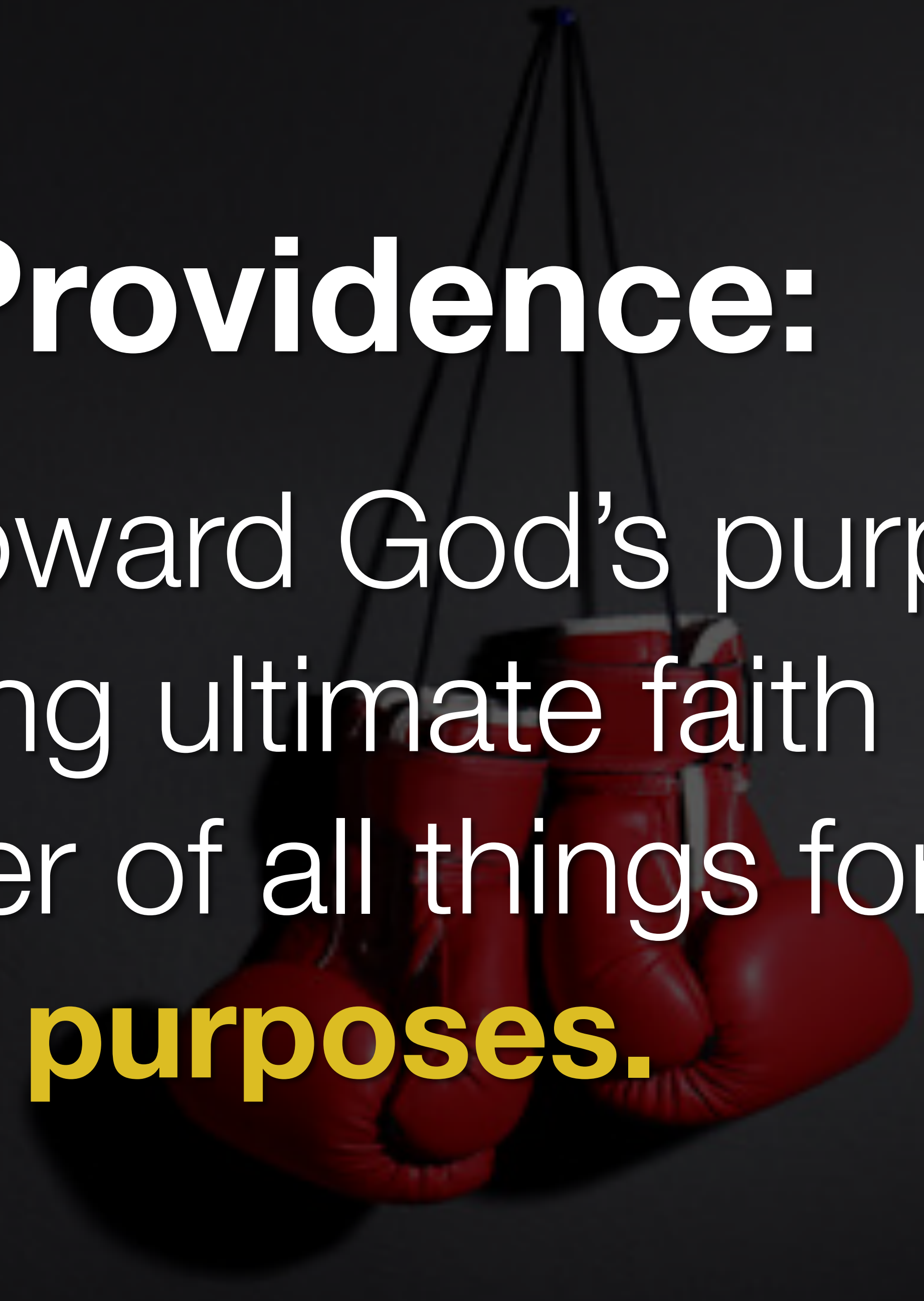
# Why we need to believe in God's Providence

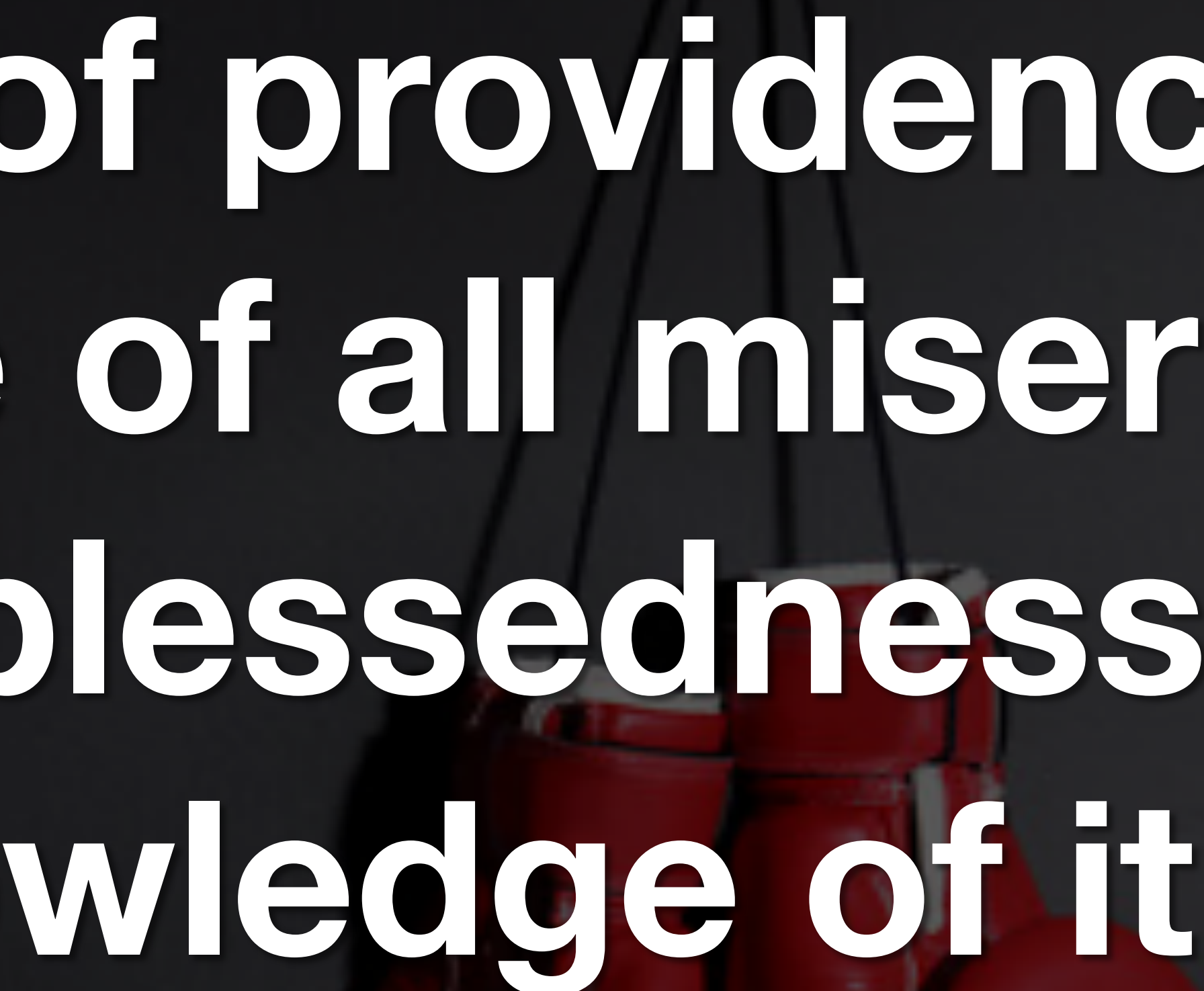
- If God is in control and not humans, this is **fatedness**.
  - This produces paralysis.
- If humans are in control and not God, this leads to **survival of the fittest**.
  - This produces anxiety.



# God's Providence:

I move and act toward God's purposes **today** while having ultimate faith in His weaving together of all things for His **future purposes.**





**“Ignorance of providence is  
the ultimate of all miseries;  
the highest blessedness lies  
in the knowledge of it.”**

**- John Calvin**

## **To believe in God's Providence means believing:**

- God loves you and therefore guides you into the right future
- God will redeem every form of brokenness & sin toward goodness for all those who walk with Him.





# Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, **for those who are called according to his purpose.**

# Esther 4:12–14

When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. **For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish.** And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

# How we can move with confidence in God's Providence:

- Seek God's way & Go



# Psalm 37:23

The steps of a man are  
established by the LORD,  
**when he delights in his way;**



**Stop asking for the blessings**  
**of God**

**when you don't have in mind**  
**the calling of God.**

## How we can move with confidence in God's Providence:

- Seek God's way & Go
- Submit yourself to God's, "No!" (or "Go")



# Proverbs 16:4

The Lord works out  
everything to  
**its proper end.**

## How we can move with confidence in God's Providence:

- Seek God's way & go
- Submit yourself to God's, **“No!”** (or “Go”)
- Trust God to **direct the road** as you Go.





# Proverbs 16:9

In their hearts **humans**  
**plan their course,**  
but the Lord **establishes**  
**their steps.**

# 1 Corinthians 15:58

My beloved brothers, be steadfast, **immovable**, **always abounding in the work** of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord **your labor is not in vain.**

# How can you live in God's Providence?

- Assume **greater options** out of **missed opportunities**.
- Seek **counsel** rather than **consolation**
- Assume God's **moving wherever you're going** with God

