God’s foreknowledge does not mean that we cannot make free will choices. He knows what we will do because he knows all things. But His knowing does not mean we don’t freely choose. Let us use an example to make this idea clear. A father can know in advance the choice his child will make without forcing the decision. If a father places a bowl of ice cream and a bowl of rocks before his child, he knows already which bowl the child will choose. However, the child has free will to choose either the ice cream or the rocks.

In regard to salvation, what is the relationship between man’s free will and God’s foreknowledge? 1) God is omniscient--He knows our choices in advance. 2) Our choices do not compromise God’s omniscience. 3) God saves those who choose to be saved. 4) God condemns those who do not choose to be saved. 5) God condemns those who choose to be lost.

**Prayer**

Prayer is one of God’s greatest gifts to His people and the believer’s most personal and intimate means of communicating with God. Prayer gives us access to God’s wisdom, strength, and love. Through prayer we can find hope and forgiveness, and we can petition God on behalf of others.

How is prayer related to divine providence? The question is often asked, “If God knows in advance what I need, why should I pray?” We should remember that we do not pray in order to provide information to God. He already knows everything about us. Prayer is for the benefit of the believer. It has been said that “God moves mountains, and prayer moves God.” We can understand this statement more clearly if we examine the components of prayer. These components are represented in the acronym ACTS.

38

can bring misfortune and embrace anything that can improve one's lot in life. In a very real sense, superstition and other beliefs that deny God’s providence are forms of idolatry. The Bible teaches that God has a divine plan for human beings and that He causes or allows everything in keeping with His divine plan ([Acts 4:28](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%204.28); [Ephesians 1:10](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ephesians%201.10)). Here are some popular forms of superstition.

1. **Astrology** (not to be confused with the science of astronomy) is based on the premise that there is a relationship between astronomical phenomena and events in the human world. The individual, earth, and earth’s environment are viewed as a single organism, all parts of which are correlated with each other. Many cultures have developed elaborate systems for predicting terrestrial events from celestial observations. Astrology most often consists of a system of horoscopes that claims to explain aspects of the personality of believers and predict future events in their lives. These predictions are based on the positions of the sun, moon, and other celestial objects, particularly at the time of their birth.
2. **Palm reading** consists of evaluating a person's [character](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_character) or [future](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future) [life](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_life) by "reading" the palm of that person's hand. Various features of the hand are said to suggest interpretations by their relative sizes, qualities, and intersections. Associated superstitions include the reading of cards or tea leaves to determine the future of the person concerned.
3. **Omens** (or signs)are events, objects, numbers, colors, etc. that are supposed to indicate either good or bad fortune. For instance, a black cat and the numbers 13 and 666 are thought by some people to bring bad luck. A shooting star and the number seven might indicate good luck.

7