

God In the Details

^{16b}. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. Psalms 139:16-18 (NIV)

⁵ Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare. Psalms 40:5 (NIV)

You have had times when you have been willing to recognize God in the details of your life. They are often traumatic times when you were forced out of your normal routine and you saw what the world calls coincidences but are really God incidences. Let's hear just a couple... 50 years – return from Japan -

I am sure we have all had times come to mind that are similarly amazing coincidences. We knew God was orchestrating things in just the right way to obtain His desired end in our lives. This morning I'd like you to consider that everyday is orchestrated, planned, with just the same amount of care and love as that day you are recalling in your mind. Today, in fact, is another day in which God has written out the script with the end in mind of making you, and you, and you, and all of us together into Christ's spotless, unblemished Bride.

Let us look at these Scriptures again and see if that is not true... (read the verses again) You believe that God is sovereign, that He reigns as Lord over all. He has permitted evil for a time, because man chose to do wrong. The innocent can suffer. When we discussed God's Providence we saw how that even in the face of evil and man's choices He still causes Romans 8:28 to be true. All things – not some things, not only the good, but all things work together for good to those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes.

We know from that same chapter a few verses later that God is for us. And we know there is no good thing that He will withhold from us. Is that only in times of desperate need? Is that only when our minds can comprehend what He is doing? Or is it all the time?

We are going to be studying in Timothy about responsibility to care and provide for your family. Are we God's family? If He expects us to do that it is because He exemplifies it. Everything that is right is right because that thing flows from the character of God. If it is right for us to care for our family, then of course, it is right because God cares for us continually. Only with God, there are unlimited resources. He is involved in every detail of your life, and every event that takes place. And for His children, His chosen people, He takes even the evil of life and brings about lasting fruit in our lives if we will let Him.

If you will open your eyes and ears and expect, you will see his invisible Hand in the details of your life. You will be thrilled at His constant attention to you. David says in Psalm 16 "I have set the Lord always before me, because He is at my right hand I will not be shaken." You may not interpret what He is doing correctly because His thoughts are so far above ours, but you will know He is there. That can change your attitude of how you see things and give you that He is leading in a certain direction.

Henry Blackaby's book Experiencing God taught me a lesson that really changed the way I see daily life. Briefly summed up it is something like this. We pray. If we have faith then we should expect God to answer. After we pray watch what happens and see if the Lord is answering. Look

at your devotions that day and see if it does not come alive addressing what you prayed about. Listen to that friend that just called and see if God is not answering your question through them. Expect God to answer. Walk into your day remembering your petition and believing He is in the details with answers for you. When you pray in a direction, immediately anticipate the activity of God in answer to your prayer. When God's people prayed in the Bible, didn't He respond? He is no respector of persons and you too should expect a response. Ps 116:1-7

When you forget what it is you are asking God, you go through the day with all these things you consider distractions. Guess what? That is God trying to get through to you the answers to your prayers. It requires a close relationship with God to be able to hear Him anytime He wants to speak to you. We get so into our routine and then our lack of faith in expecting answers, that when they come we are annoyed at the distraction from our routine. Pray and immediately watch what happens next. When the unexpected and the bizarre walks into your life, remember what you have been praying and see if it is God speaking the answer you were seeking. We too often act as if He said, "Seek and maybe someday you will find. Knock and eventually I may open, but don't expect it." Jer 33:3

There are times of silence when the answer is wait or not yet and then the silence itself is the answer. It is not usually one we welcome but it is an answer nonetheless. Here is when we are tested if we are really seeking God's heart or just an 'OK' for what we already have planned. It is a good habit to ask ourselves before we ask something of God, "Is my body a living sacrifice?" Is my will surrendered?" Do I have a preference that needs to be laid on the altar? The rich young ruler was destined to have a confrontation with Jesus over the Lordship of Christ in his life. It was no coincidence that this man heard of Jesus, was near where He was teaching, presented Him with the question. But Jesus response was not what the RYR wanted to hear. He went away sorrowful. We are more accountable and in greater turmoil if we ask without a surrendered heart in the matter.

"If you do not have clear instructions from God in a matter, pray and wait. Learn patience. Depend on God's timing. His timing is always right and best. Don't get in a hurry. He may be withholding directions to cause you to seek Him more intently. Don't try to skip over the relationship to get on with the doing. God is more interested in a love relationship with you than He is in what you can do for Him."

We looked at the lives of Isaac and Joseph and saw the incredible parallels to the life of Christ. Godincidences for us to learn about our Savior and the sovereignty of an omnipotent God. A coincidence Eve was made second and from Adam's side? No we have read the significance. Or how about one door on the ark? Or no one listening to Noah and building and planning right up to the end? As it was in the days of Noah... Or the failures of faith of Abraham before Isaac? Just weakness of the flesh not any eternal Godincidence? The father of the faithful was faithless when he lied about his wife, left Ur with family when God said leave your kindred, had a son by Hagar. Just coincidences or Godincidences to teach Abraham that God is always right and any other way will cost you dearly. Godincidences to teach us the same and give us hope in our blundering state for the unlimited patience of God. We just read a Godincidence in Timothy how God chose this man Saul who was the worst of sinners. Random choice of God or to teach us the unlimited patience of God and give us all hope.

Walk through any Bible story and you will see God coincidences, the Invisible Hand of Providence that bring us to a greater knowledge of who God is and where we are at in relation to Him. Why?

God loves you so much He will not let you stay where you are. He wants that transformation. He is working just as much today in your life as He was in the lives of the saints of old. Everything is answers to prayers and lessons to learn. His glory fills the earth right now. Just because Satan is Prince of the Power of the Air doesn't mean God can't work all things for the good of those who love Him.

All this is to say, Open your eyes and ears to God speaking to you. Expect Him to answer. As you open your Bible, expect Him to speak through his word to you personally. You are his child. What kind of a father would refuse to answer a child or refuse to be involved in his or her life? We have a loving Father that is in every detail. Thank Him for that, love Him for that, and don't miss what He is saying to you.

Just as He is guiding us individually so He is guiding us corporately. The people He brings are a part of his plan. WE need each other because we have different gifts and abilities. WE need to draw from each other. Fellow ministers, you are called here for a reason. It may not be forever but right now hear what He has for you and learn and appreciate what your loving heavenly Father is doing in your life, and our lives together. Be amazed at the Godincidences and worship Him for his loving concern for the details of your life and the life of this fellowship. When you pray, get ready – WATCH. Are the sermons you hear preached a coincidence? Are the songs you hear on the radio? The people you bump into? The Scripture you read in that devotional book? The **details of your life are not coincidences they are Godincidences.** God loves you and wants to speak to you ... tune in ... expect Him to act. Then thrill to the knowledge of how much He loves you! Out of a loving response, act on what He is showing you.