



Right Place Right Time

JOSEPH PRINCE



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God Appointments

chapter 1

God Appointments



Time And Chance Happen To All

Do you know people who always seem to be in the right place at the right time? They are always bumping into the right people in the right places at the right times. It may be in a shopping centre, in a lift or at work. And it may occur just when they need extra finances, a new job or a life partner. They happen to meet people who then bless them, or they step into situations where they get blessed just at the right time. Some people call these occurrences “divine interventions”.

Now, have you ever wondered why some people seem to walk in these divine interventions more than others? They attract what the world calls “luck”. But it is not “luck”, it is God’s timing. He knows their needs as well as your needs intimately. He knows when, where, how and by whom your needs are to be met.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us, “*He has made everything beautiful in its time...*” Do you want to be found in His time?

Well, I am going to tell you how you can be in the right place at the right time. But first, let's look at King Solomon's life.

King Solomon was the richest man who ever lived. To date, no one has come close to being as wealthy as he was. Solomon was the son of King David and he loved the Lord. Although he turned his heart away from the Lord towards the end of his life, he came back to the Lord before he died.

Solomon had something to say about timing. He wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. In Ecclesiastes 9:11–12, he said:

¹¹I returned and saw under the sun that — the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favour to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all.

¹²For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them.

Notice what Solomon said by the Holy Spirit: “*the race is not to the swift*”. Now, that means that the winner of the race is not necessarily the fastest person. I can hear all the slow people shouting, “Thank God!” Solomon went on to say, “*nor the battle to the strong*”. In other words, the one who wins the battle is not necessarily the stronger one. “Thank God!” say the weak. Next, Solomon said that men of understanding are not the only ones who gain riches: “*nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding*”. Here is the most interesting

statement: *“nor favour to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all”*.

Solomon is telling us that those who are better, wiser and stronger don't win the war, don't win the race, don't get the riches and don't win the favour. But those who are in the right place at the right time win the race, and enjoy favour and success!

Only God can put you in the right place at the right time and give you good success.

The only one who can put you in the right place at the right time is God. You can try through self-effort to better position yourself for success by studying more, working harder and cultivating more strategic relationships. You may end up being slightly faster, slightly stronger and more well-connected, but only God can put you in the right place at the right time and give you good success.

There are also people who find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. They get caught in a “net” and they don't even know why. Ecclesiastes 9:12 says:

¹²For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of

men are snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them.

This describes the category of people who are not blessed. They are like *“fish taken in a cruel net”*. Everything seems to go wrong for them. Of all the flights that take off at an airport in a single day, they end up taking the flight that crashes. They get caught in evil circumstances and they can't get out of them. These people find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.

But those who are in the right place at the right time don't get into trouble. Instead, they get the blessings. They get the favour, they get the provisions, they get the riches.

You Need God For ‘Right Happenings’

You may attend motivational seminars conducted by people who will teach you how to be a self-made success. They will tell you that you must plan your life, plan your day, follow your vision and set your pace. But Proverbs 16:9 tells us, *“A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”* If we are honest and humble enough, we will acknowledge our need for God in our lives.

When you depend on yourself, **you** will have to make sure that everything is all right. But I have found that you can plan your day, your year and your life all you want, but the rain may fall, a strong wind may blow and a tree branch may drop right

on your head! God is not behind the unfortunate incident — you were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. And as you lie there injured in the rain, you begin to wonder, “I planned my day so well, what happened?”

Do you want to be in the right place at the right time? Then trust God to lead you there. I have seen people in our church who had been experiencing financial hardships when suddenly, they bumped into an acquaintance or friend who soon employed them. The friend just happened to have a vacancy in his company and discovered that the Christian has a talent that was needed in the company. I have seen companies become blessed when Christians were hired through “right happening” encounters.

How does all this happen? Some of you might say, “Well, they just happened to bump into each other!” My friend, it is not coincidence that brought them together, it is the Holy Spirit.

So many times, I have seen God bless people in our church with His favour. I have seen people faced with financial crises, and when they prayed to the Lord, He put them in the right place at the right time. Financial transactions took place that delivered them from financial distress. Now, they didn’t necessarily have better products or services. In fact, their competitors sometimes had better products and services. But they were just in the right place at the right time. The timing was right. The client needed products quickly and these people happened to be there to meet the need.

You may be out of a job right now. You may want a wife or husband. You may need to sell more products for your company. So believe today that in the days to come, God is going to prosper your way by putting you in the right place at the right time!

chapter 2

God Coordinates Timing

chapter 2

God Coordinates Timing



‘Right Timing’ In The Scriptures

Ecclesiastes 9:11 says that “*time and chance happen to them all*”. I preached a message based on this truth in December 2001. I remember that when I was preparing the message, I heard God say to me, “Look at the reference.” I said, “I know the reference.” He repeated, “Look at the reference.” So I looked and noticed the numbers “9:11”. And I remembered that the September 11 terrorist attacks happened just a few months ago. Isn’t it an interesting reference for a verse on being in the right place at the right time?

What God is trying to tell us in Ecclesiastes 9:11 is this: To succeed in life, to escape disasters or accidents, you need to be in the right place at the right time. You see, it doesn’t matter how beautiful you are or how many degrees you have because it takes God to put you in the right place at the right time. When God puts you in the right place at the right time, you end up doing the right thing or meeting the right people, and you

prosper. My friend, wouldn't you want to be found in the right place at the right time?

Holy Spirit — Agent Of Divine Appointments

Now, the word “time” in Hebrew is *'eth*, which simply means “timing”. It is interesting that the first time the word *'eth* appears is in the story of Noah and the ark. Everyone knows the story of Noah. He knew how to float his assets when the world was in liquidation! He prospered during a crisis. Finally, when the rain stopped and the waters began to subside, Noah sent out a bird to see if there was dry land. But he sent the wrong kind of bird. You see, he sent a raven and ravens are scavengers. There were probably lots of dead bodies floating around for the raven to feed on!

But the second bird he sent out was a dove. Now, doves are not scavengers. So they are the right kind of bird to send out to look for evidence of life. Remember that doves are also pictures of the Holy Spirit. The dove found no place to rest outside the ark, so it returned to the ark, indicating to Noah that water still covered a lot of the land. After seven days, Noah sent the dove out again. This time, it returned with an olive leaf in its mouth. (Genesis 8:11) It is from this verse that you have today's peace emblem — a dove with an olive leaf in its beak. So now, Noah knew that there was evidence of land and life.

Now, when did the dove come back to Noah? Genesis 8:11

says that it was “*in the evening*”. It is here that you find the word *’eth*, which means “timing”, appearing for the first time in the Bible. In other words, the “timing” was “in the evening”. Or we could say that “in the evening” was the “right timing” because that was when the dove returned with good news.

Now, notice also that the first mention of “timing” or “right timing” here has to do with the Holy Spirit, represented by the dove. What does this mean? It means that it is the Holy Spirit who orchestrates the “right timing” in our daily lives! It is the Holy Spirit who places us in the right place at the right time. It is the Holy Spirit who causes us to experience divine appointments or God appointments.

It has nothing to do with your abilities or your smarts. Only the Holy Spirit can put you in the right place at the right time and cause you to prosper. And as long as you are a believer washed by the blood of Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit inside you to lead you and place you in the right place at the right time.

A Shunammite Woman’s Divine Appointment

In 2 Kings 8, there is an example of a woman being in the right place at the right time. But let me first give you the backdrop to this story. Elisha was a prophet of God who experienced double the miracles of his master, Elijah. Why? Because Elisha was hungry enough to ask God for a double portion of the anointing.

In 2 Kings 4:8–37, we see one of these miracles. God used Elisha to raise a boy from the dead. The boy’s mother was a kind Shunammite woman. Elisha would pass by the woman’s house regularly. She and her husband realised that he was a man of God. So they built a small chamber in their house for Elisha to rest in whenever he liked.

Now, the Shunammite woman and her husband could not have children, so Elisha blessed them with the blessing of the Lord and the woman soon gave birth to a boy. The boy grew up and one day, while playing in a field, he suffered a stroke and died later on his mother’s lap. To cut a long story short, Elisha raised the boy from the dead. 2 Kings 8:1–3 tells us what happened next to this woman:

¹Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, “Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the Lord has called for a famine, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years.” ²So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God, and she went with her household and dwelt in the land of the Philistines seven years. ³It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to make an appeal to the king for her house and for her land.

Now, this woman had left her house to escape the famine because the man of God had told her to. After seven years of

being away, she returned to find that other people had taken her land. So she went to make an appeal to the king of Israel for her house and land. Now, while she was on her way to the king, the king **happened** to have a guest with him. And the guest **happened** to be Elisha's servant, Gehazi.

Look at 2 Kings 8:4: *"Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, 'Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done.'"* So Gehazi told the king how Elisha had restored a Shunammite woman's dead boy to life. And while he was telling the story, the same Shunammite woman whose son Elisha had restored to life was visiting the king to make her appeal!

2 Kings 8:5-6 tells us:

⁵Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life." **⁶And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now."**

My friend, talk about timing! The king could have invited Elisha's servant to have an audience with him at any time during the seven long years of famine. Why did it happen right

when the Shunammite woman turned up to appeal to him? We don't know. But what we do know is this: God is the one who coordinates timing! When He wants to carry out His will in our lives, it happens according to His timing. My friend, your life is not an accident. Your picking up this book is not an accident. Your life is like a tapestry of miracles!

‘I Delayed This Flight For You’

God is amazing. He can even cause delays to work for you. When our daughter Jessica was only two years old, my wife and I took her on a holiday. And it was the first time we took Jessica on a plane. I couldn't believe the amount of things we had to pack for her. Wendy and I shared one piece of luggage, but Jessica had two large pieces of luggage!

At the end of the holiday, we were scheduled to catch a night flight home so that we could make it back in time for the opening ceremony of a dialysis centre, which our church had raised money to build for our community. On the way to the airport, we were caught in a traffic jam. I thought to myself, “No problem, we're still on time. We'll make it.”

When we reached the airport, we rushed to the counters only to discover that they were closed. We eventually found a counter that was still open and asked a man about our flight. We gave him our flight number and he said to us, “Your flight was scheduled to leave an hour ago!” My heart sank. I turned to Wendy, whose responsibility it was to confirm our flights

whenever we travelled, and said, “Darling, can you please check the tickets?” Wendy looked at the tickets and discovered that the flight was scheduled for 2130 hours, not 2230 as she had thought! To be fair, this was the first time Wendy had made this kind of mistake. Usually, she is very accurate.

I looked at Wendy and said, “Darling, you can make a lot of mistakes, you can make 1,001 mistakes, but this one mistake is a mistake above all mistakes!” Wendy felt really bad. The man behind the counter must have felt sorry for us. “Look,” he said, “I’ll process this for you, but I can’t check in your luggage because it’s too late. The plane is about to leave, so take your luggage with you, run all the way to the departure gate, and if the plane is still there, get on it.” I was surprised that we could still catch the flight.

So we grabbed our luggage and moved as fast as we could. It was a challenge because it was late at night and it was the end of a holiday, which meant that we were very tired! The gate was also at the very far end of the terminal. When we reached it, a few attendants were still there, so they checked in our luggage and told us to board the plane. By now, I was very annoyed with the whole situation. Some of you may be thinking, “Pastor Prince, you’ve got to learn to be patient.” Well, all I will say is that I have not yet learned how to lie!

You can’t remain angry when you sense God’s

love and provision.

Then, I heard an announcement saying, “Ladies and gentlemen, we are having problems with the conveyer belt.” I realised then that the flight had been delayed as not all the luggage had gone into the plane’s cargo hold due to the faulty conveyor belt. Now, I travel often, and yet I have never heard of a plane being delayed because of a faulty conveyer belt! Sure, planes have been delayed for engine trouble or bad weather, but a faulty conveyer belt? Anyway, I was very glad that the plane was delayed so that we could catch the flight and be on time for the opening ceremony.

After another 10 minutes of waiting, I thought, “My goodness, who is delaying this flight?” All of a sudden, I felt the love of God. I felt God saying to me, “I delayed this flight for you.” In total, from the moment we boarded the plane, we had about 20 minutes to settle in, have a drink and do all the things we needed to do to get comfortable before the plane took off.

How could I remain angry when I could sense God’s love and provision? I tried to rationalise the problems we just had: Getting the flight time wrong, dragging extra luggage belonging to a two-year-old, running from one end of the terminal to the other... But if God didn’t think much of it, why should I?

So God can use delays. You might say to me, “But Pastor Prince, when I get stuck in a traffic jam, I get moody. I don’t see

any good in it at all!” My friend, trust me, there is always some good happening. Romans 8:28 says, *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* God didn’t say that everything is good. He said that everything works together for good.

God Can Turn A Crisis Into A Blessing

God can place you in the right place at the right time. But there are people caught in the wrong place and at the wrong time. They are like birds caught in a net. Tragedies hit people from time to time. People lose their jobs, marriages fail and sicknesses or accidents take the lives of loved ones.

People say to me, “Evil is increasing around us.” No, my friend, tragedies occur in isolated situations. It is not everywhere. Don’t let the devil fool you. And don’t let fear rule your life. Enjoy the times. If tragedies in certain countries affect tourist numbers there, then take advantage of discounted flights to those countries. Take advantage of the fact that there will be no crowds or long queues at tourist attractions in those countries.

For example, tourism has been affected in Israel for many years. So pack your bags and go see the lovely Bible places there! I remember that when Israel was faced with a crisis at its border with Syria, I happened to travel there with a few others and there were no tourists around. So we had the place all to

ourselves and we enjoyed ourselves! We even had the hotel and all its staff members to ourselves! So we were very well looked after.

Now, when everything is going fine, you have got to join long queues at popular tourist attractions. When everything is going fine, and the sun is shining and the weather is perfect, you have got to line up for places like Disneyland.

Timing is everything, as they say. So ask the Holy Spirit to bless you with right happenings and to put you in the right place at the right time!

chapter 3

God Leads Us

chapter 3

God Leads Us



God Puts Desires In Your Heart To Lead You

Do you want to be in the right place at the right time? Then find out how God leads you today. God wants to put you in the right place at the right time and He knows how to guide you there.

Now, I want to say something about hearing God's voice. I am a Charismatic, which means that I am a tongue-talking, devil-chasing, mountain-moving, Bible-toting Christian! I also believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But I am against teachings that make people feel like they are less of a Christian if they can't hear God's voice. For example, some church leaders say that if you don't know how to hear God's voice, then you have missed God. These church leaders seem to be saying, "You must come up to my level of spirituality because I know how to hear God's voice." Others will tell you, "Attend my seminar because I have developed four steps that will help you hear God's voice. I have five 'traffic lights' on the inside of

me that help me discern His voice. So come and learn from me.” What these leaders are doing is complicating what God has made simple!

Such teachings have pervaded the church and this is dangerous because it means that only an elite few can hear God’s voice. And these same few will sometimes try to tell you that you have to go to them if you want to find out from God who you are to marry, what job to choose, what clothes to buy and so on. In other words, they control or direct your life and that is wrong!

Now, I am not against following God’s audible voice, but I have discovered from the Bible that hearing from God is much simpler than that. I don’t find the apostle Paul saying, “Grace and peace to you, saints in Ephesus. Thou must learn to hear God’s voice by shutting thy door, kneeling down in the darkness, opening thy ears and getting in the Spirit.” I don’t find anything like that in Paul’s letters. Instead, I find Paul instructing the church with words such as, *“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”*. (Philippians 2:13) Who places the right desires in your heart? God does. It is He who puts the willingness in you to do something or go somewhere. That is how He leads you today.

I have had some people come up to me and say things like, “Pastor Prince, I had a desire to go shopping the other day, so I went shopping and I bumped into an old friend who shared with me about how his life was in a mess because he was going through a marital crisis. You know, Pastor Prince, I invited him to church last Sunday and he received Jesus. Later, I heard that

he went back to his wife and she is giving him another chance.” Such divine happenings take place because you had a desire to go shopping or to a certain restaurant for lunch. Later, when you look back over the sequence of events that led your friend to Jesus, you see God’s fingerprints all over it!

You don’t have to wait many hours just for God to guide you. God makes things easy, not difficult.

Some Christians have been taught not to believe their hearts or inner desires because they have been warned: “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*” (Jeremiah 17:9) Now, where is this scripture taken from? Is it from the New Testament? Did Paul write this to the church? No, it is from the Old Testament.

My friend, let me tell you that once you are saved, God takes out your heart of stone and puts in a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26) The New Testament tells us that if God wants something known to us, He will write it in our hearts and in our minds. (Hebrews 10:16) In other words, you will know it in your heart and in your mind. That is how He leads you today. You don’t have to shut the door, kneel on the floor in the dark, wait quietly for a few hours, and try to see or hear something from

God. Then, when you start to see things blinking in the dark, you think that God is showing you something and you shout, “Yes, a vision from the Lord! Speak to me, Lord!” Let me tell you that if you do that, someone will surely shout back, “Go to sleep!”

Christ In You Leads You From Within

Now, some of you may say, “Well, Pastor Prince, don’t you believe in waiting on the Lord?” Yes, I do and I enjoy spending time in His presence. But I don’t believe that you have to wait many hours just for God to guide you. God makes things easy, not difficult.

Let me say that if you hear any preacher, including myself, preach something you don’t understand or which makes you feel “scratchy” in your heart, go back and check the Bible. Does the New Testament emphasise learning how to hear God’s voice? Or does the New Testament emphasise that you are already **in** Christ and that He is in you? (Colossians 1:27) Because if He is in you, then He gives you desires. Often, it is so supernaturally natural that we miss it. We don’t know that it is God speaking to us because we say, “How can my desire for something be God-inspired? How can this be God?” Many people don’t realise that according to the New Testament, this is how God leads us today.

The apostle Paul tells us something about this in 1 Corinthians 2:9. Here, Paul quotes from Isaiah 64:4 in the Old

Testament. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, *“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’”* There is a difference in wording between what Paul wrote to the Corinthians and what was actually written in Isaiah 64:4. In other words, Paul changed the quote a little. Isaiah 64:4 says, *“... for the one who waits for Him”*. But Paul wrote, *“...for those who **love** Him”*.

Why did Paul change the word “waits” to “love”? Because in the old covenant (in the Old Testament) you had to wait for God. But today, according to the new covenant (in the New Testament), you don’t have to wait for God. Why? Because God is already in those who love Him, those who have accepted His Son. Romans 5:5 says that *“the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us”*. We love God because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19) And He has placed His Spirit inside us to lead us every day.

So to hear from God, it is as simple as praying early in the morning, “God, lead me and guide me today.” Many times, He will put desires in your heart. Today, you may feel like going to a friend’s house. If you do, then go because there is a miracle waiting for you there!

You don’t need an angel to come down and say to you, “Go to the shopping mall! Take a look at the discounts! Take advantage of the sales!” I know of instances in which women have followed their desires to shop and they happened to find items of clothing that they had previously wanted to buy being

sold at a special discounted price. These women happened to be in the right place at the right time by following their inner desires. Some of you husbands may not agree with me, but I believe that it was God who arranged the timings for them!

Unfortunately, there are still Christians who think that we are supposed to be mystical creatures waiting upon the Lord. “You’ve got to fast and pray a few days before God speaks,” they say, as if God is so hard to persuade! I don’t believe that teaching any more because over the years, I have seen God speak through my heart and mind so many times.

Jesus did not say, “My sheep must learn to hear My voice.” He said, “My sheep hear My voice.”

It all comes down to being in the right place at the right time, and having the right desires in your heart. If you are a born-again child of God, the desires in your heart are planted by God. Again, Philippians 2:13 tells us that *“it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”*.

So if God works in you, learn to trust your desires. Now, there may be circumstances when you can’t trust your desires, but you will come to know which desires are from God and which are not. For example, if you have a desire for another man’s wife, you don’t need a rocket scientist to tell you that

that is not from God! There are some desires that are contrary to God's Word. The Bible is clear on those things. But if it is a grey area, don't worry about missing God's voice in your heart. God will put mature Christian friends or leaders around you who also hear God's inner voice. Get to know them and share with them what you think is from the Lord. They will weigh it and guide you in love.

'My Sheep Hear My Voice'

Some Christians say, "You don't know how to hear God's voice. That is why you are suffering!" God is not like that. Do you really think that He doesn't know how to come down to our levels? Jesus said in John 10:27, "*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*" Jesus didn't say, "My sheep must **learn** to hear my voice." No, Jesus takes it for granted that we hear His voice. That is why He said, "My sheep hear my voice." We should just believe His words and stop worrying about not being able to hear His voice. If you are His sheep, you **will** hear His voice!

He wants to put us in the right place at the right time so that He can meet our needs. And it is easy to be led by Him. But some of us get so stressed out trying to hear God's voice that we miss His voice altogether. Let me say this: God has a higher way, a better way and a more relaxed way to speak to us. God has a New Testament way and it is this: Your heart is so full of Jesus that you end up in the right place at the right time. And

you may not even know it!

God can even use your mistakes to prosper you. You take the wrong bus, but you meet an old friend who offers you a better job! God can use delays too. A delay at the traffic lights causes you to miss the accident up ahead! When your heart is so full of Jesus and you are so focused on Him, you will end up in the right place at the right time! And living life like that is wonderful!

The Lord Before Us And Behind Us

Genesis 24 shows us an example of how God leads us to the right place at the right time. Abraham instructed his chief servant to go and look for a wife for his son, Isaac. In verses 39–40 we see the servant telling Rebekah's parents how he came to find Rebekah at the well and how God had prospered his way. This is what he said:

³⁹And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' ⁴⁰But he said to me, 'The Lord, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house.

Notice here that Abraham had told his servant that God would send His angel with him to prosper his way. God will do that for you too. He will send His angels before you! Now,

whenever you find the word “angel” (singular) in the Old Testament, it refers to the pre-incarnate appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Hebrew, “angel” means “messenger”, the holy messenger of God. In the Old Testament, “*the angel of the Lord*” refers to Jesus. But if the reference is to “angels” (plural), then it is referring to just angels. For instance, cherubim are winged angels.

The servant told Rebekah’s family that Abraham had said to him, “*The Lord, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way.*” He was referring to Jesus. Jesus goes before you and prospers your way. Isn’t it wonderful to know that Jesus goes before you and prepares the way? Who better to go before you than Jesus!

In Israel, it is tradition for a shepherd to name his sheep. Then, he would take those he has named out of the flock and walk to the front of them to lead them. We see something like this in the Old Testament. In Exodus 14:9–10, the Israelites were facing the Red Sea and behind them was the Egyptian army coming to destroy them. Talk about being stuck between a rock and a hard place! There they were, crying to God.

Now, God had been in front of them as a pillar of cloud when they left Egypt. (Exodus 13:21–22) In reality, Jesus was there with them. He was leading His people like a good shepherd would. And what did He do when they stood before the Red Sea? He moved right behind them as a pillar of cloud to prevent the Egyptian army from coming near them. (Exodus 14:19–20) Jesus defended His people. At the same time, He opened up the Red Sea so that all the Israelites could cross over to the

other side. Isn't it beautiful how God always leads us and even protects our backs!

The Aleph-Tav Has The First And Final Word

Let me show you from Ecclesiastes 9:11 again, how Jesus is the one who puts us in the right place at the right time. Look at the clause, *"time and chance happen to them all"*. In the original Hebrew text, two Hebrew letters, *aleph* (א) and *tav* (ט), placed next to each other, appear right after the word "happen". These letters, אט (note that Hebrew reads from right to left), have been translated as "to" in our English Bibles. But this is an inaccurate translation because "אט" does not mean "to". Let me explain what it means.

Jesus has the first and the Last word in all your situations!

Aleph and *tav* are the first and last letters in the Hebrew alphabet, just like A and Z in the English alphabet. In the Greek, they are alpha and omega. In Revelation 22:13, Jesus says, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."* So *aleph* and *tav* together also refers to Jesus! He is the Aleph and the Tav or Aleph-Tav (אט)

)!

What all this means is this: Jesus has the first and the last word in all your situations! Your problem doesn't have the final say. That crisis doesn't have the last word. Your doctor doesn't have the final word. Jesus the Aleph-Tav has the first and last say! And He will make all things beautiful in His time by putting you in the right place at the right time. He is the one who brings the right places and timings together in your life, and He has placed His signature — **TA** — in Ecclesiastes 9:11 to assure you of that!

Do The One Thing Needful — Sit At His Feet

My friend, you have a choice. You can live life watching out for yourself, saying, "I'd better position myself carefully... I'd better make sure I get the promotion... I'd better make sure no one takes advantage of me..." In other words, you live life full of stress, growing old fast and speeding to the grave!

Or you can live life hearing God's voice in your everyday life, hearing Him direct you through your inner desires and following His promptings in your heart. The choice is yours.

I have made my choice. There is One who knows everything and every detail, and I rest in Him. My heart is full of Him and I am at peace. When you enjoy His love, He puts you in the right place at the right time. If He needs to direct me to do something, He will speak to me. The more I understand this, the **more** I hear His voice and the more **clearly** I hear His voice.

Let me illustrate this with the story of two sisters, Mary and Martha. In Luke 10:38–42, we see that Jesus came to the house of these two sisters. The Bible tells us that Martha was busy serving while Mary sat at Jesus’ feet listening to His words. I believe that she was also admiring His beauty and worshipping Him. Then, Martha got upset because her sister wasn’t helping her with the work. So she went to Jesus to complain, saying, *“Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”* But instead of agreeing with Martha, Jesus defended Mary. He said, *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”*

So Mary sat at Jesus’ feet to commune with Him, and just enjoy His love and admire His beauty, while Martha was busy and concerned about other things. Now, I am going to show you how Mary’s sitting at Jesus’ feet caused her to do the right thing at the right time.

**Just sit at Jesus’ feet and He will cause you to be
in the right place at the right time.**

Let’s fast-forward the story: It is about a week before Jesus was to die on the cross and He came to the two sisters’ house

again. (John 12:1–8) This time, Mary brought very costly oil to anoint Jesus' feet in the presence of her brother Lazarus and her sister Martha. Judas complained about this, saying that it was a waste of good oil. But Jesus defended Mary again, saying, *"Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial."* (John 12:7) No wonder Jesus also said, *"Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."* (Mark 14:9)

Then, on the morning that Jesus rose from the dead, some women came to the tomb bringing spices to anoint His dead body. But they arrived too late. He had already risen and was no longer in the tomb. You see, unlike Mary, they were not able to do the right thing at the right time.

But what caused Mary to do the right thing at the right time? It wasn't that she was smart. She didn't even know when Jesus would die. It was simply because she had sat at His feet! My friend, learn to do that. Learn to appreciate Jesus. Learn to love Him. Learn to enjoy His love and learn to look at His beauty. Choose the good part like Mary did. Just sit at Jesus' feet, and He will cause you to be in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing!

For many people, that may be too simple. They say that hearing God's voice and being in the right place at the right time have got to be more complicated than that! Let me tell you that hearing from God is not hard. You don't have to attend seminars like *The Seven Secrets To Hearing God's Voice* just to hear His voice. There is a better way — just behold Jesus,

look at Him, and be captivated by His beauty and His grace!

Meekness And Majesty

Recently, I was doing what Mary did, spending time with Jesus, when I received another revelation about His beauty. You see, He is the only perfect one who ever walked on earth. He is the only perfect Man. And yet, He said in Luke 22:42, “... *not My will, but Yours, be done.*” My friend, if there was anyone who could have done his own will without making God angry, it was Jesus! He could have done His own thing. He could have followed His own will. And yet, He chose to come to earth to do His Father’s will.

You and I are not perfect. We often want to do our own thing because we are selfish. Man has always wanted to become like God. The only reason Adam wanted to eat the forbidden fruit was to become like God. Man is really nothing trying to make himself something. Jesus, on the other hand, who is really God in the flesh, came to earth and made Himself nothing. He made Himself of no reputation. He took upon Himself the form of a servant. No wonder the Father loves Him! It crushes my pride when I see that. There is no more room for ego and self-inflation when I realise that.

It is the greatest liberty ever known to man to look at Jesus Christ and see His beauty. Jesus often hides His beauty. Not often, but once in a while, you see flashes of His beauty. You see it, for instance, when He calmed the storm. There He was in

the boat tossed about by the winds and waves. He stood up, commanded the storm to be still and nature obeyed Him. Then, God veiled His Son's beauty and majesty again.

When Jesus heals people, He doesn't show off. He heals them and hides His majesty again. The devil likes to show off. Man likes to show off. But Jesus doesn't show off. That is why I am in love with Him! How can I not love His beauty? Of all men, He is the only one who can choose where He is to be born and how He is to be born. And yet, the King of kings chose to be born in a smelly manger!

David — Forgotten By Men, Found By God

The anointing of David is another beautiful story illustrating how just enjoying the presence and love of the Lord will cause everything in your life to fall into place. In 1 Samuel 16, when the prophet Samuel came to the house of Jesse, David's father, to anoint a new king for Israel, all seven of David's brothers lined up before the prophet. Each one thought that he would be anointed king, but none of them were. It was David whom the Lord had already chosen. So when David was finally summoned into the house, Samuel anointed him as future king of Israel.

Now, where was David? He was out in the fields taking care of the family's sheep. Why wasn't he included? Probably because he was the neglected son. Just like David, you may be the neglected one in your family because you are not smart or

good looking. But don't worry because God does not see as man sees. Man looks at outward appearances, but God looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7) You see, David was a man after God's heart. (Acts 13:22) This means that he loved the Lord and spent time sitting at His feet. And because he had a heart for God, God chose him as the next king.

Even after Samuel had anointed David, do you know what David did? He went back to tending the sheep! You know, his family's rejection didn't break him. He was content to be in the fields. He was happy to let his brothers entertain the prophet. David's promotion didn't make him proud. He was still a humble little shepherd boy after God's heart.

Eventually, the call came. King Saul was oppressed by an evil spirit and only David had the anointing to play the harp so that the evil spirit would leave the king. (1 Samuel 16:14-23) So David served the king. After he had completed his assignment, David went back to the fields again! He was not a man seeking after wealth and power. What a humble man!

Again, the call came. This time, it was to go to the battlefield to deliver food to his brothers. While he was there, he knocked down Goliath and became a hero. He killed and decapitated a more-than-nine-feet-tall terrorist! David stood before the king again, but the king was so blind that he didn't recognise David. He didn't realise that it was the same boy who had played the harp for him. But David wasn't insulted, not even when the king asked him, "Who are you?" For he replied, "I am the son of your servant Jesse." (1 Samuel 17:58) After having destroyed Israel's number one enemy, this was a very humble

answer.

Don't worry about position or power, just be absorbed with the person of Jesus.

Why was David like that? Why was he humble? Well, for a start, David didn't need people to flatter him or make him feel good. His happiness and satisfaction didn't depend on people. He didn't need to hang around VIPs to prop up his ego. Instead, he found satisfaction, security and joy in worshipping the Lord. "As long the Lord is with me, I'm happy," he would have said. His focus was on the Lord.

You can learn something from David. Don't worry about position, power, prestige or promotion, just be absorbed with the person of Jesus. He is the King of kings. Combine all the best attributes of the best men in the world into one man and he still won't come close to the beauty of Jesus! Everyone else pales in comparison to Jesus the perfect Man!

So do what David did — be absorbed in the Lord. Just focus on Him and enjoy His love, and everything else will fall into place. He will position you to be in the right place at the right time. And even if everyone has forgotten you, He hasn't and He won't. The Good Shepherd will find you from among the sheep and anoint you king. Don't you just love Him!

chapter 4

God Creates Right Happenings

chapter 4

God Creates Right Happenings



Ask God For Success And Trust Him

Isn't it good to know that God works behind the scenes to put you in the right place at the right time? And He does it simply by putting desires in your heart to go somewhere or do something, so that you end up being blessed.

When these "right happenings" occur, it usually has to do with God connecting you with people more than God connecting you with money or products. We would all love to be connected with money. We would all want to be the one who wins the lucky draw. We would all want to be the one who wins the million dollars! But that is usually not God's way. The blessings He brings into your life are usually people. Man idolises inanimate objects like money, but God has more of a long-term interest in your success than you do! He has your best interests at heart. He wants to connect you with real and lasting success, not just a one-time lottery win.

I want to show you how God can connect you with the right

person through right happenings with a story from the Old Testament. In Genesis 24, Abraham's son Isaac had reached the right age to marry, so he told his servant to go and find a wife for Isaac. The servant was an unnamed servant, a very faithful man and the oldest servant in Abraham's house. Abraham instructed him to *"go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac"*. (Genesis 24:4)

So the servant went away and in time, he came to a well outside the city of Nahor. He wanted to provide water for his camels to drink. But he also knew that a well was a good place to find eligible young women because all the young maidens of the town would come to the well to draw water in the evening. But which of these girls would be the right one? Which of these girls would be the one whom God had set apart for Isaac?

Abraham's servant probably asked himself these questions. So he prayed, *"O Lord God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham."* (Genesis 24:12) The phrase *"give me success"* is actually one word *qarah* in the Hebrew. And *qarah* means "right happening". In other words, the servant prayed, "God, give me **right happening** today!" And it is here that the word *qarah* appears for the first time in the Bible. The word is also used in Ecclesiastes 9:11: *"But time and chance happen [qarah] to them all."*

The servant's prayer continues in Genesis 24:13–14:

¹³Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw

water. ¹⁴Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, ‘Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink’ — let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master.”

By asking God for a woman who would give him a drink as well as give his camels a drink, the servant was asking God for a woman who would go the extra mile.

Genesis 24:15–16 continues:

¹⁵And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. ¹⁶Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

Some people think that if they prayed the way the servant prayed, God may not give them what they want. But this passage proves otherwise because Rebekah was “*very beautiful*”! Yet, these people would rather search for a wife themselves. They are fearful that if they just prayed, “God, give me success!” God will find them a wife who is old and pickled! If this really happened to a young man, I can imagine all his friends urging him on and saying, “Go ahead and marry her!

Sacrifice yourself for us all!”

Some people have this idea that God does not give us what we want. But here is a man of God, the servant of Abraham, praying this prayer, “God, give me success!” That is all he asked. He didn’t specify any details like, “She must be beautiful. She must be tanned and she must be tall!” No, he just said, “God, give me success!” “God, give me *qarah!*” “God, give me right happening!” And God gave him more than what he asked for. He gave him Rebekah, a young woman who *“was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her”*.

The servant was in the right place at the right time. God led him there and connected him with the right wife for Isaac, and both sides of the family were blessed. Later on, the Bible tells us that Isaac loved Rebekah. (Genesis 24:67) Of course, God knew beforehand that they would be good for each other!

God Knows Best Who’s Good For You

Now, my friend, let me tell you that everyone is beautiful to someone. I learned that when I was youth president in my previous church. One day, a new girl attended our youth fellowship and one of my friends looked at her and said, “My goodness, she’s really cute!” But when I looked at her, I felt like praying for my friend’s eyesight! Then, the Lord spoke to me and said, “Son, everyone is beautiful to someone.” That day, I was rebuked.

God knows what you like and God knows what you will be like.

God knows who is beautiful in your eyes. So trust God when you are looking for your future husband or wife. God's heart is kinder than you can ever imagine. God loves you more than you will ever know. He is more interested in your success than you are. God knows you better than you know yourself. He formed you when you were in your mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13–14) God knows what you like and, best of all, He knows what you will be like five years from now! So when God introduces you to your future husband or wife, don't judge him or her by what others say, just trust God's goodness.

Have you ever noticed that every time God provided a wife for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and other men of God, the Bible says that the women were beautiful? Their beauty is recorded in the Bible. And every time these men of God first laid eyes on their brides, they immediately fell in love with them. These women were beautiful to the men whom God had appointed to them.

Walking In Grace Brings Right Happenings

Another example of right happenings in the Bible is found in the story of Ruth. Interestingly, although Ruth was not a

Jewess, she ended up in the genealogy of Jesus! (Matthew 1:5) Ruth was a Moabitess, so how did she end up in Jesus' family tree? She married a man called Boaz.

Ruth's story is a beautiful story of God's grace in spite of the law. In this story, you will find that Ruth's husband had died, so she renounced her gods and followed Naomi, her Jewish mother-in-law, back to the land of Israel.

Now, they were both very poor when they went to Israel. So Ruth felt that the least she could do was to make some money working as a gleaner in the fields. Let me explain what a gleaner does. A gleaner would follow a reaper through a field. The reaper had a better job than the gleaner. You see, the reaper would cut the harvest of wheat and barley, while the gleaner would follow the reaper, picking up or plucking whatever the reaper had missed or left behind.

Ruth 2:1 tells us that there was a man in Bethlehem whose name was Boaz, a relative of Naomi's husband and from the clan of Elimelech. Boaz was also "*a man of great wealth*" and a bachelor.

Ruth 2:2 continues:

²So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favour." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Notice that Ruth was very confident in God. She told Naomi that she would go to the field and find grace, which means

undeserved favour. She didn't even know which field she would end up in. Naomi replied, *"Go, my daughter."* So when Ruth was out in the fields gleaning, she came to a part of the field belonging to Boaz the wealthy bachelor. In those days, the fields were huge and owned by different people.

I want to quote from the old King James Bible to highlight a few words and their meanings. Ruth 2:3 says, *"And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her **hap** was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech."* What is "hap"? "Hap" comes from the word "happening". And the Hebrew word for "hap" here is *qarah*, which we have learnt means "right happening". So it means that Ruth happened to be in the right place at the right time!

The world is only happy if happenings happen to happen the way they want them to happen! But did you notice that the word "happy" comes from the word "hap", which means right happening? So Ruth **happened** to be in the field belonging to Boaz. And it so **happened** that Boaz came along at the right time and fell in love with Ruth. The rest is history!

Now, some of you may say to me, "Hey, Pastor Prince, I'm more concerned about my financial situation." Well, my friend, Ruth became financially secure for the rest of her life! That poor, widowed Moabite girl? Yes, she married one of the wealthiest men in Bethlehem!

A Holy Ghost Connection

In my previous church where I was youth president, the church didn't believe in the Charismatic move and in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Being the youth president, I was in a bit of trouble because the young people in my care were being baptised in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Now, in my position, I received lots of invitations to attend Christian fellowship meetings in a number of schools.

I was drawn to one particular school. I didn't know why, but I just felt a desire to accept an invitation to that school. So I visited the school's Christian fellowship on a few occasions. I ended up meeting a good-looking young man there who played the guitar during the meetings. His name was Joshua and he was a secondary school student. Today, he is the associate pastor of my church. A life-long relationship was established with Pastor Joshua as a result of my being in the right place at the right time. God led me there simply by putting a desire in my heart to go to that school. I call that a Holy Ghost connection!

God's eyes run to and fro throughout the earth,
looking for opportunities to bless His people.

God can connect you with people. Over the last few years, I have heard so many people tell me, "Pastor Prince, last week, I

bumped into an old classmate.” I have lost count of the number of people who have told me that story. It has been happening everywhere. And they would also say to me, “I found out that he was facing a financial crisis. I invited him to church and now, he and his whole family are saved.”

Let me ask you this: Do you really think that they just happened to bump into their old classmates? And of all the moments, when their classmates were in financial crises! No, my friend, these were divine appointments, not coincidences. God placed those Christians there in the right place at the right time to help them.

God can place you in the right place at the right time. His eyes run to and fro throughout the earth, looking for opportunities to bless His people, looking for opportunities to set up divine appointments. (2 Chronicles 16:9) He knows what you need. He knows the gifts and the talents that He has planted in you. He knows which job will satisfy you.

God can place you in the right place at the right time if you would only humble yourself and tell Him, “I need you, God! I need you to be involved in my life!” Now, if you want to run your own show, He may let you be the star. But the only person watching that show will be you. On the other hand, if you let God orchestrate your life, it will be a beautiful life because He always puts you in the right place at the right time!

Start Expecting God Appointments

Being in the right place at the right time is something that we can no longer take lightly. With the increase in terrorist activities as well as the apparent rise in natural disasters, it behoves us to trust Him to place us in the right place at the right time.

What the devil wants to do is make us fearful. He knows that he cannot attack our bodies and circumstances unless we are full of worries and cares. But we don't have to be fearful. We can have the peace of God because we know the God of all peace. And He has given us His Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. He leads us simply by giving us His desires, making it so easy for us to follow Him. And as His sheep, we will hear His voice.

Also, Jesus, the Aleph and the Tav, has guaranteed us that disaster, disease and debt will not have the last say in our lives. Instead, He has the first as well as the final word because He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last!

My friend, expect to escape tragedies and disasters. Expect to close that million-dollar deal. Expect to meet your life partner. Expect to bump into a friend and lead him to the Lord. All because you can expect God to place you in the right place at the right time!

Salvation Prayer

If you would like to receive all that Jesus has done for you and make Him your Lord and Saviour, please pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me and dying for me on the cross. Your precious blood washes me clean of every sin. You are my Lord and my Savior, now and forever. I believe that You rose from the dead and that You are alive today. Because of Your finished work, I am now a beloved child of God and heaven is my home. Thank You for giving me eternal life, and filling my heart with Your peace and joy. Amen.

We Would Like To Hear From You If you have prayed the salvation prayer, or if you have a testimony to share after reading this book, please send us an email at info@josephprince.com

Other Materials By Joseph Prince We trust that you have been blessed reading this book. For more books and other resources such as message CDs and DVDs by Joseph Prince, or for more information, please visit our website at www.josephprince.com

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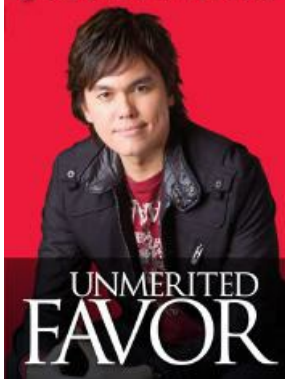
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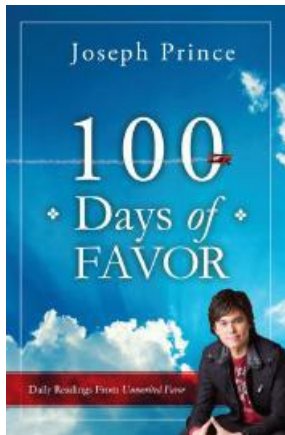
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