

Divine Appointments

I am going to tell you about a pair of divine appointments that happened years ago to me when I was a young Christian. Both divine appointments were arranged by the Holy Spirit, but the purpose and outcome of the situation was not clear to me at the time. Sometimes we cannot see what the Spirit is doing in our lives until the outcome is revealed. I am writing this account of a series of events that happened in my life to show you how the Holy Spirit moves in the believer's life to accomplish the will of the Lord.

Years ago, I had been working in a company for several years as an unbeliever. I was following my own lusts and desires, and not a good person by any means. Most of my coworkers liked me because I fit right into their idea of being a decent coworker. We would laugh and joke around with each other and not really care about anything spiritual. That is until I had an encounter with the living God. Jesus saved me from my sins, and myself. The path of destruction I was on was radically changed to the point that everyone in the factory knew that something had happened to me. I had become the topic of many conversations, some good and some bad. They all took notice that I was not participating in the activities that I used to participate in. I was also reading my bible every chance that I got. I just could not get enough of what God was trying to tell me in his word. I had such a hunger for Spiritual knowledge.

Appointment 1

One day an older coworker came up to me and asked me what I was doing reading my bible all the time. I told him about how I had accepted Jesus Christ as my savior. I continued to share my experience with him, and he patiently listened. I then asked him if he knew Jesus as his savior, and he said that he and his wife used to go to church, but he was mad at God for taking his wife away from him. They were getting ready to retire and we're looking forward to a future together in retirement. She had cancer and it was extremely aggressive. He told me they had plans to travel all over the country and see everything they had not been able to see while they were working. I told him that he shouldn't be mad at God for calling his wife home, that she is now in a place where there is no more pain or suffering and no more tears. I also said that I am sure your wife would tell you to move on without her and enjoy the rest of your life. She would probably even tell you to go back to church. He said, well he's not ready to go back to church because he's still mad at God. I told him that if he ever wanted to go to church to let me know and I would go with him. So, for the next couple of weeks when I walked by his machine, he would call me over and ask a question. I would answer it to the best of my ability and extend the offer to go to church with him if he

ever changed his mind. Over the course of the next couple weeks, we had several good conversations about the Lord. I knew that all our conversations were seeds being sown for the kingdom. I really started to look forward to being able to share the word of God with my coworker. After every interaction I would reaffirm the fact that I would go to church with him if he would like me to go.

Appointment 2

During appointment one, my family lived on a 40-acre farm on a back country road. There was a sharp curve right at the turn to the road I lived on. One morning while the family was just waking up there was a car accident up on the curve and my wife heard the collision. Our sons came running into the bedroom saying there's been an accident up on the curve. There is a car on its side, and someone tried to stand but is now lying on the road. It was a seasonally cold Pennsylvania morning with morning mist hanging in the sunrise. I jumped up out of bed, grabbed a shirt and a one-piece coverall put my shoes on and ran up the road to the scene of the accident. My wife called 911 and then told our sons to stay at home. She then ran up to the scene of the accident. Being as it was on a blind curve I asked her to walk around the curve about 30 yards so she could see up the straight-away and stop any cars from coming around the curve, so they didn't hit us. I walked over to the young man, and I saw that he was very seriously injured on his head and he was curled up in a fetal position. He was having a lot of trouble breathing from his internal injuries, I was then led to have a discussion with the young man. Whether he could hear me or not I don't know, but I proceeded to tell him that he needed to have Jesus Christ be His Lord and Savior and that he needed to confess his sins so that he could be forgiven of them and secure eternal life. I told him if he could not talk, I would speak for him, and he could agree with me. I then asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive any sins this young man had committed against him and asked the Lord to be the Lord of his life. I asked the Lord to take the pain away to ease his suffering, and to welcome him into heaven. I did not pray for healing because at the time I was a baby Christian and my faith was not strong enough to believe what I would have been asking for. The bible says if we have the faith of a mustard seed, we could say to this mountain to be removed and thrown into the sea, and it would be so. While I was waiting for the first responders to get there, I had a blanket brought up from the house to cover the young man with to try and keep him warm. It took 20 minutes for the

first responder to get there, and another 20 minutes for the helicopter to get there. Unfortunately. The young man passed away at 9:07AM at the hospital in Baltimore as a result of the injuries he sustained in the crash. After the helicopter left the farm the State trooper and I gathered things off the road to place them into the young man's car. I spotted a bible laying in the road and went over to grab it. As I approached the bible a slight breeze suddenly blew by and flipped the pages of the bible and stopped on Job chapter 38. I took this as a message from the Holy Spirit that there was something I should know in that chapter of Job. The book and chapter stuck in my mind for the rest of the day. We continued to pick up things and place them in the car. I walked up to the state trooper and said to him. I don't know how you deal with this type of thing every day, but I appreciate what you do. He said he had to go tell a dad two days earlier that his wife and children were all killed in a crash. I walked back down to the farmhouse thinking about what he said. It lends credence to the fact that life is fleeting and we aren't promised tomorrow.

After things settled down, I got my bible out and read Job chapter 38, and 39. In conclusion after reading the chapter shows the vast gap between human and divine knowledge. It is also a statement of God's absolute sovereignty over creation.

The reason I have included this encounter is because of how it interacts with the first appointment.

The Divine Part

During the week after the crash at the farm, the coworker who had been asking me questions about God came up to talk more about God. I told him the story of the young man who crashed his car by the farm and passed from his injuries. I told him about the conversation I had with the young man on the side of the road. I told him that I prayed with the young man and asked God to forgive him of his sins, and to accept him into heaven, I also told him that I was not sure if the young man was able to pray in his mind with me, or if he was unable to do that. I told him how important it was to ask Jesus to forgive our sins and believe that he was raised from the dead and is now sitting at God's right hand.

The next day my coworker came back and said he thought that he would like to go to church that coming Sunday and asked if I would like to go with him to the Sunday morning service at the church he and his wife used to attend. I told him that I would be happy to go to the

service with him. I was so excited that the Lord was opening doors for me to witness and share the gospel with others. On Sunday I met my coworker, and we drove to a nice little, small-town church. I was glad to see it was not one of these mega churches. The service was very nice, and the songs were very uplifting. I was so happy to be in church with my coworker listening to the word of God and singing praises to him. It was the end of the service when the preacher made a special announcement. He stated that they would be taking a special collection to help a church family be able to afford the burial costs of their son who was in a fatal crash the previous week in York Springs. When he said the name of the church family I about passed out. I was in total shock at the name I had just heard. The pastor was talking about the family of the young man who was in the accident at our farm the previous week. My coworker looked at me and asked what was wrong with me? I told him that nothing was wrong, I was shocked at the announcement from the pastor. I explained to my friend that the young man the pastor was talking about was the one I had told him about that was in the accident at our farm. I asked him, what are the odds of that happening? That I would be at that young man's side to pray with him after his accident, and then to be standing in the same church where they are taking a collection for his burial expenses. I had a compulsion to go and say a few words to the family and the pastor. I had not had much experience with recognizing the promptings of the Holy Spirit in his still small voice inside of me. I was wrestling with myself as to whether it was the Holy Spirit leading me to go and say something or me just wanting to get some recognition. We left the service without me saying anything to the family or the pastor. My co-worker was very thankful that I had gone to church with him that day.

After several weeks of reflection on this whole situation I was convinced that Gods hand was directing the entire chain of events. I had dreams several nights in which I saw myself comforting the mother who lost her son, of sharing the testimony with the pastor of everything leading up to that day in church. The discussions that my coworker and I had about going to church with him, the accident and the church service, the spirit leading me to go and talk with the family and the pastor. I realized that I had missed the leading of the Holy Spirit in going and comforting the family with the knowledge that their loved one did not die alone. That he was cared for, prayed for, and comforted on that roadside before he went home to meet his maker. I had to repent to Jesus and ask him to forgive me for not acting on the leading of the Holy Spirit In that situation. I felt like I had let down the Lord,

the Pastor, and the family with my inaction. We have such a loving and forgiving Father who loves his children enough to forgive them and help them to learn from their mistakes.

As a young Christian I thought that when God wanted me to do something he would appear and tell me, send an angel to tell me, or give me a dream or vision of what he wanted me to do. I learned in time that God sometimes gives us a nudge or an internal compulsion to do something. It is like a small subtle voice inside us prompting us in the direction that the Holy Spirit is leading us. Learning to recognize that leading, or prompting is a necessary part of our spiritual growth. Looking back at this whole situation has shown me that God is always working in our lives. Sometimes we can see it plainly as it unfolds, and other times we don't see his hand working until we look back and see his footprints in the sand right alongside our own. In this testimony of divine appointments, we see two vastly different situations playing out over the course of several weeks intertwined together to manifest God's handiwork in our lives to accomplish his will in all things. It is utterly amazing to see the depth of His love. I hope that in sharing these testimonies that I have been able to help another believer in their walk with the Lord or help one who is not yet a believer but is searching and trying to understand how to recognize that God is in control of all things. God's love for us is manifest in all of creation, and the fact that he would send his only Son to suffer, die, and rise again to pay for our sins and impart to us His righteousness.