

Divine Appointments



Written By Rev.
John Marinelli

Copyright

**August 2016 – Rev. John Marinelli
P. O. Box 831413 Ocala, FL. 34473**

All Rights Reserved

Introduction

Have you ever experienced the blessings of God? Many of us have. In most cases, the blessing of God came as a result of some sort of divine appointment. God has a way of causing our path to cross the paths of others, some of which are used by God to bless us. If you've been walking with the Lord for a while, you will know that what I am saying is true.

I have had divine appointments with angels, with Godly men, with unsaved folks and even with evil forces. However, not everything that comes into our day is by divine direction. Much is due to the planting and harvesting effect of our own actions. Then there are the attacks of the devil and his fiery darts. Finally, there is the voice of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the angels to the Saints.

Here are a few scriptures and/or thoughts to validate what I am saying.

Divine Appointments With Angels

- *“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” Psalm 34:7*

I know that the angel of the lord comes with an entire camp of warring angels. They set up their perimeters all around us and are prepared at a moment's notice to deliver us. That is...if we fear (reverence) God. This is a divine appointment each time it happens.

- There are other occurrences that were recorded in the Bible. How about the time Gabriel, the angel, visited Mary... where the angel told her she would give birth to Jesus, even though she had never been with a man? **(Story-Luke 1:26-35)**
- How about when Peter was visited by an angel when he was in prison and the angel led him out of the prison with the doors still locks. **(Story-Acts 12:1-25)**

Divine Appointments With The Devil &/or Evil Spirits

- *“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.” **Matthew 4:1***

Jesus had a divine appointment with the devil. His faith and loyalty to God had to be tested or purified. He faced the challenge and overcame the enemy using; “It Is Written,” as a weapon.

The Spirit does not lead us into temptation. In fact, the Bible says God does not tempt man with evil. **James 12:13**, However, it is open season on Christians by evil forces and we encounter them everyday. Our weapon is the same as what Jesus used, “It Is Written”

- *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” **I Peter 5:8-9***

I would not say that we have a divine appointment with evil but rather we have an ongoing battle. God has given us all that is necessary to overcome. We just need to use what He has provided. We are led into the battle so we can defeat evil and live a victorious Christian life.

Divine Appointments With Unserved Folks

Not all divine appointments are with anointed Christians. God will bring you into the world of the unsaved so you can shine your light and testify to the saving grace of God through Jesus.

The Beggar

I remember a time when I was working at a men's clothing store in downtown Orlando. It was many years ago. As I left work and came to my car, a young man stopped me and asked for some money. I didn't have much to give but I remembered what Peter and John did when entering the temple in Jerusalem. They encounter a beggar seeking alms. Peter said, in so many words, "I don't have money but what I do have I will give you freely."

So I said the same thing to my beggar. However, all I had was a pocket size New Testament. I gave it to him, shared Christ with him and led him to a saving knowledge of Christ. Then he went on his way and so did I. However, I was rejoicing that another soul came into the kingdom of God. It truly was a divine appointment.

The Wood Chopper

There was a story I heard at a revival years ago that also illustrated divine appointments with unsaved folks. It was about an old woman that needed her wood chopped so she could use it to keep warm. Every day, she stood on her porch and prayed out loud, "Dear God, I need my wood chopped. Please help me"

As she prayed, every day, an unsaved man came by, every day, and laughed at her because she prayed that God to chop her wood. He just shook his head as he passed by and mumbled to himself, "How silly"

About the third day, he stopped, picked up the ax and started chopping the old woman's wood. He complained all the time about how silly the old woman was. As he chopped the wood, the old woman praised God for meeting her need.

Now the moral of the story is...God will set up divine appointments for you to meet your need, even if the other person is ridiculing you. The bible

supports this notion. **Proverbs 13:22b** ... the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Divine Appointments With Godly Folks

It's no secret that God uses His children to bless each other. We are usually blessed in abundance so we have more than enough. That happens so we can be a blessing to others.

We recently had a divine appointment that involved another Christian. Our paths crossed those of an elderly lady that donated 5-acres of land to our, "No Kill", animal shelter. The lady told us she would pray about it and get back to us. It was her idea to possibly donate the land. She came back to us with her decision. She felt that God wanted her to participate with us in this way. We are now clearing the land and promoting our 1st phase. We are also looking and praying for more divine appointments.

It's a good thing to have God on your side and orchestrating divine appointments on your behalf. He will give you favor with others as you seek to do His will.

Divine Appointments With God

We cannot leave out divine appointments with God. The Old Testament tells the story of Job and his encounter with God. It also tells of the burning bush and Moses' divine encounter. The Bible is full of divine appointments where God and man met to discuss current or future events.

I remember a time, many years ago, when I was backslidden and away from God. I was praying that I might get back but just couldn't seem to overcome the darkness. Then one day, I hired a secretary that was a new, on fire, Christian. She later became my wife. However, she would often ask me why I was so mad at God.

One day, she came at me with the same questioning tone. But, instead of seeing her and hearing her, I saw into the Spirit and actually met with Jesus. I didn't physically see Him, just felt His presence. There was an exchange of thought, no audible words, but I knew what He was saying.

He said to me, "It's a long way back, John. Do you want to make the trip?" By this time, I was in tears. I said, "Yes Lord" and He said, "Ok, walk with me and I will be at your side." Then His presence vanished but I left an impression on my heart that has never faded. This was 34 years ago and I am still rejoicing over that divine appointment with the Lord.

Divine Appointments With Death

We all die. Sooner or later, we will pass on from this life into another. Where we spent eternity is our choice. The Bible tells us that even death is a divine appointment. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" **Hebrews 9:27**

Judgment will follow this divine appointment. We want to be sure that our days of judgment are nil. The way to eliminate God's wrath is to trust in Jesus. See what is said in the very next verse of Hebrews nine...**verse 28...** *"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation"*

Jesus paid the debt owed to God's own Justice. It is paid in full so we, even though sinners, can go free. Now we can serve God and have fellowship with Him without fear of death, hell or eternal judgment.

Supernaturally Scheduled Meetings

Excerpts From Dennis Rainey's Article In Family Life Magazine

A divine appointment is a meeting with another person that has been specifically and unmistakably ordered by God. Yet I sometimes wonder how many of these I've missed because I didn't have my spiritual radar turned on.

The Scriptures say, "The steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord." **Psalm 37:23** After decades of walking (off and on, but mostly on) with God, I can tell you that seeing God set up these "appointments" is a thrill that is beyond compare.

Walking In The Spirit And Divine Appointments

By Pastor Jack Hyles

One of the most wonderful things about walking in the Spirit is that He makes appointments for us in a miraculous way so that the Spirit-filled Christian will cross the paths of those who need help and salvation.

I am sure that in Acts 8, Philip had some doubts when the Holy Spirit told him to leave the great meetings that he was having in Samaria when he was preaching to great crowds and go the desert. However, Philip being sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, obeyed. God had made a prior appointment for him to talk to an Ethiopian eunuch. **Acts 8:29**, "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot."

The word "join" in this verse implies "glue" or "cement". God had previously appointed that Philip be "glued" to this man who needed the Savior. Wonderful and many are such appointments when a person walks in the Spirit! (*If you are unsure about walking in the Spirit, download Rev. Marinelli's book on this site. It is free.*)

Holy Spirit Appointments

The question comes, how does a Christian have the Holy Spirit make such appointments for him? The answer is one word-YIELD! Every morning when I get up yield myself to the Holy Spirit. Oh, how many opportunities He has for us if we would only be available to Him and present ourselves for His use!

Notice the sensitivity of deacon Philip to this leadership in **Acts 8:29**, "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." Notice, the Holy Spirit led him specifically to the eunuch's chariot! Then when the eunuch was won to Christ, Philip was caught away by the Spirit to another place. **Verse 39**, "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

Divine Appointments And Evangelism

All believers are called to shine their lights into a dark or sinful world. We are instructed to go into the whole world and preach the gospel. This is one privilege we have...to share our faith. However, if you have encountered great resistance and feel that you are just not getting through to those around you that are not saved, here's a thought to consider.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will set up a divine appointment with that individual or group you are seeking to reach. Do not labor over it. Give it up to God to work out. He is great enough to soften a heart, prepare the way, open the door and make it happen. Your job is to just be sensitive to the voice of the Spirit and wait for the appointment. Say nothing, just wait upon the Lord with an expectation that it will happen and be ready.

Selected Scriptures Relative To Divine Appointments

1—Psalm 32:8..."I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you."

2—Joshua 1:8..."Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

3—Psalm 139:13–14a..."For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

4—Ephesians 2:10..."For we are God's workmanship, create in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

5—1 Thessalonians 5:24..."The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it."

6—James 1:2–3..."Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."

7—**2 Corinthians 5:7**... "We walk by faith, not by sight."

8—**Psalms 143:8**... "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you, I lift up my soul."

9—**Colossians 3:2**... "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

10—**Philippians 2:3-4**... "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others."

11—**Matthew 6:21**... "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

12—**Philippians 1:6**... "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

The Primary Reason For Divine Appointments

Hear what Jesus said to over 500 followers just before ascending into heaven. This was after His resurrection.

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. **Matthew 28:18-20***

We are commissioned to go and teach all nations. That can be your neighbor, your husband or wife, certainly kids and everyone else that enters your world. We just need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and ready at all times to share Christ. This is the primary reason for divine appointments.

Conclusion

Question? When was the last time you had a divine appointment? If you never had one, it's time. Here are a few things to consider that will ensure divine appointments on a regular basis.

1. Seek God's will, not your own.
2. Obey what you know to be true.
3. Read the scriptures and apply or walk in them.
4. Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit.
5. Stand in faith and walk by faith.
6. Resist the devil, other folk's opinions and your own feelings.
7. Be prepared to share Christ at any moment with anyone.

God bless you in all that you do.