



THE
STEPS
OF A
GOOD MAN
ARE ORDERED
BY THE
LORD

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If you are one of the many heartfelt believers that are struggling day to day, month to month, and even year to year just wondering if you are doing all you need to be doing to fulfill the purpose and call that God has set before you in this dispensation I believe this teaching will be an essential tool for you.

To achieve the most out of this teaching I urge you to please make sure that all distractions are minimized and take time focus on understanding the material presented. As you continue reading just begin to allow the truth of the scriptures to not only encourage you but reset your attitude about what God is doing in your life every moment of every day!

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he continues to write to encourage them not to look back but to press on! It reads as follows.... *"I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward. So let those [of us] who are spiritually mature and full-grown have this mind and hold these convictions; and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also."* Philippians 3:14-15 (AMPC)

Father, in Jesus' name, we long to come into maturity in every aspect of our walk with You, and we ask right now that through Your precious Word and Your Spirit that You will make clear our thoughts that they would line up with Your thoughts and help us to develop the mind of Christ more every day! Glory!

You see, it is written in Psalm 37:23 (AMPC) ²³ *The steps of a [good] man are **directed and established** by the Lord when **He** delights in his way [and **He busies Himself** with his every step]."*

In biblical word studies, the first usage of a word in the bible often reveals its clear meaning. In Psalm 37:23 the phrase “**ordered or directed and established**” is the Strongs #3559 in Hebrew which is the word *kun*. *Kun* is a verb meaning, “to be firm, be set up, established, fixed.” For a more precise understanding let’s look at the first usage of *kun* in full context of scripture.

This first occurrence is when Pharaoh had his dreams, and God gives Joseph the interpretation here in Genesis.

*“Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do: ²⁶The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years; the dreams are one. ²⁷And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine. ²⁸This is the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. ²⁹Indeed seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt; ³⁰but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land. ³¹So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it will be very severe. ³²And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is **established** (kun) by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.”* Genesis 41:25-32 (NKJV)

Remember, part of the meaning of *kun* is “to be set up, established, fixed.” So really, God set up, established, and FIXED this 7-year harvest, and famine? Yes, He did indeed! He gave Pharaoh two dreams to confirm it was His will.

WHEN YOU HAVE A REOCCURRING OR SIMILAR DREAM IT COULD BE GOD TRYING TO REVEAL WHAT HE WILL ESTABLISH AND BRING TO PASS IN YOUR LIFE!

“For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it. ¹⁵In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds, ¹⁶Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction. ¹⁷In order to turn man from his deed, And conceal pride from man. ¹⁸He keeps back his soul from the Pit, And his life from perishing by the sword.”

IN HIM YOUR LEAF WILL NOT WITHER

We read here in Proverbs, “A good man obtains favor from the Lord, but a man of wicked devices He condemns. ³A man shall not be ***established*** by wickedness, but the root of the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall never be moved.” Proverbs 12:2-3 (AMPC)

The righteous man’s root shall never be moved! We must conclude the immovable root would have something to do with the truths found in Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17. Let’s look at those passages.

*“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; ***And****

whatever he does shall prosper.” Psalm 1:1-3 (NKJV) God said it, do you believe it?

My friend, you are a child of the Highest. If you are a doer of His Word, delighting in His Word and keeping it in your meditation, **then you must expect that with God you are bringing forth fruit in season! You must expect that in Him your leaf cannot wither, and therefore, wherever you go and whatever you do you are prospering in the realm of the Spirit!**

Now let’s look at Jeremiah 17, *“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, **Nor will cease from yielding fruit.** ⁹ “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”* Jeremiah 17:7-10 (NKJV)

It is our own deceitful heart that would try and convince us that we are just “taking up space” and that we are “unfruitful.”

CHOSEN TO BE FRUITFUL

When God establishes where a tree is going to be that’s it! When we came into union and communion with the Father that was the beginning of our righteousness (or right standing) with Him. A tree grounded in righteousness with God will yield a constant abundance of fruit.

What was the personalized message that Jesus told us? *“You have not chosen Me, **but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you]...**”* For what purpose did Jesus do this? *“... **that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide]**, so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I Am], He may give it to you.”* John 15:16 (AMPC)

After everything that Joseph endured, he had two sons, and their names were symbolic of what God did in Joseph’s life. *“⁵¹ And Joseph called the firstborn Manasseh [making to forget], For God, said **he, has made me forget all my toil and hardship and all my father’s house.** ⁵² And the second he called Ephraim [to be fruitful], **For [he said] God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.**”* Genesis 41:51-52 (AMPC)

God brought Joseph out of all the strife and chaos, and he forgot it! However, even in affliction his testimony was that God caused him to be fruitful! Joseph's steps were guided by a higher power, even when it was not apparent. His life included significant events that served a greater purpose. I challenge you to study it for yourself!

GOD KNOWS US BETTER THAN ANYONE

*“O Lord, **you have searched me [thoroughly] and have known me.** ² **You know my down sitting and my uprising: You understand my thought afar off.** ³ **You sift and search out my path and my lying down, and You are acquainted with all my ways.** ⁴ **For there is not a word in my tongue [still unuttered], but, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.** ⁵ *You have beset me and shut me in—behind and before, and You have laid Your hand upon me.”* Psalm 139:1-5 (AMPC) Wow! How intimate is*

God with us! I assure you there is no human alive that has that kind of an intimacy with any of us!

Let's keep going, verse 7, "*Where could I go from Your Spirit? **Or where could I flee from Your presence?***" ⁸ *If I ascend up into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol (the place of the dead), behold, **You are there.*** ⁹ *If I take the wings of the morning or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ **Even there shall Your hand lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.***" Psalm 139:7-10 (AMPC) Did you see that? God is with us even in the places that spiritually no one else could go with you anyways!

"*Your eyes saw my unformed substance, **and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them.***" Psalm 139:16 (AMPC) How in the world could all the days of our life be written before they ever happened, had God not had something to do with ordering your steps? God's word says it, do you believe it?

Let's go on to the last two verses here. "*How precious and weighty also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I could count them, they would be more in number than the sand. When I awoke, [could I count to the end] I would still be with You.*" Psalm 139:1-18 (AMPC) Does this sound like a God that would leave you? If we are always on His mind, then we must believe as Psalm 37:23 says "... **He busies Himself** with his (our) every step]" God plays an active role in our lives continually when we allow Him to.

ARE WE PRACTICING THIS?

"Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or

understanding. ⁶In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and **He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.**” Proverbs 3:5-6 (AMPC) If you are practicing your part in this covenant, then you must realize He is fulfilling His part of this covenant!

What about this prayer? “*Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place,* ¹⁰ *There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.* ¹¹ **For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service]...**” (Did you see the depths of the service of these angels? This is not just for protection here. When we obey God and His word His angels accompany us in all our ways of obedience and service.) “... *They shall bear you up on their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.* ¹³ *You shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent shall you trample underfoot.*” Psalm 91:9-13 (AMPC) How could you tread upon all these adversaries if the Lord was not directing your steps? Come on here, if you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, then you will have all that follows, it is that simple!

**THE SCRIPTURES THAT WERE WRITTEN
AFORETIME WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING,
SO LET’S LEARN BY LOOKING AT SOME EXAMPLES!**

ABRAHAM

“*Now [in Haran] the Lord said to Abram, Go for yourself [for your own advantage] away from your country, from your relatives and your father’s house, to the land that I will show you.*

² *And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors] and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others].* ³ *And I will bless those who bless you [who confer prosperity or happiness upon you] and curse him who curses or uses insolent language toward you; in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed [and by you they will bless themselves].”* We see here that Abraham was ordered by God to leave all he knew. God called him to leave everything that had ever comforted him in this natural realm and pursue something better that God was going to show him. Sometimes it is hard for us to receive a command like that, because our flesh wars against our spirit, and our spirit wars against our flesh and they are contrary to one another. (Galatians 5:17)

How did Abraham respond to God’s command? He obeyed by faith! In Hebrews 11 beginning with verse 8 we read, **“[Urged on] by faith Abraham, *when he was called, obeyed and went forth to a place which he was destined to receive as an inheritance; and he went, although he did not know or trouble his mind about where he was to go.*** ⁹ *[Prompted] by faith he dwelt as a temporary resident in the land which was designated in the promise [of God, though he was like a stranger] in a strange country, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs with him of the same promise.”* Hebrews 11:8-9 (AMPC)

Abraham had so much faith in the promise that God told him, that though it may not have been easy, he did everything “by faith.” Here in Hebrews, we learn that he was “urged on” or “prompted” by faith. What was one thing we learned he did not

do? Abraham did not, “...**trouble his mind about where he was to go.**”

Too many people fail to receive the inheritance that God has for them in this life because they overthink what God is asking them to do, or they reason with God about the “whys” or “ifs.” Dear friend, that response is a result of unbelief. When God says “go” then He is directing your steps, no matter what it “feels” like.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT JESUS WASN'T EVEN EXPECTING TO BE USED IN THE FIRST MIRACLE?

If you just read that heading, you may be tempted to put this teaching down but just stick with me for a moment.

Jesus took on the human nature and endured the same things that we still face today on our walk with God. The day of the first miracle we read this, “*On the third day there was a wedding at Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited with His disciples to the wedding. ³And when the wine was all gone, the mother of Jesus said to Him, They have no more wine! ⁴**Jesus said to her, [Dear] woman, what is that to you and to Me? [What do we have in common? Leave it to Me.] My time (hour to act) has not yet come.** ⁵His mother said to the servants, Whatever He says to you, do it.” John 2:1-5 (AMPC)*

Now, why would Jesus had turned down His mother’s request, unless He truly wasn’t expecting God to use Him. Nevertheless, God had His way and thus the first of the great miracles was done by God! He was used by God, despite not knowing He would be! This was something new, but that is what

God wants to do by His power in this hour.... something new. He wants you to be so prompted by faith and trusting in Him that it has the power to suppress the flesh and let His Spirit in you prevail so that men would know what He does is from Him and that no man would boast or get the glory!

WHAT ABOUT JESUS' DIVINE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN?

In the book of Matthew, we read of this interesting encounter that Jesus had. *"Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."²³ But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matthew 15:21-24 (NKJV) What? Wasn't Jesus ready to help anyone, anytime, and anywhere? Isn't that what most of us have been taught?*

Let's read on in verse 25, *"Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"²⁶ But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."²⁷ And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Matthew 15:25-27 (NKJV) This woman was desperate for her daughter! I am sure most of us would have been as well, right? In this next verse we will see that Jesus really was sent to her as well.*

"Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour." Matthew 15:28 (NKJV)

You see, sometimes in our lives God may be trying to send us here or there and maybe we do not “feel” qualified, or maybe we just couldn’t see how we would be effective but the more we trust Him, the less we will trust ourselves! That, my friend, is an awesome place to rest!

WHAT ABOUT WHEN JESUS’ STEPS WERE GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY SATAN?

*“Then Jesus, **being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,** ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.” Luke 4:1-2 (NKJV) Many times when we are led by the Holy Spirit it may not “feel good” **but it is for our good,** just like what happened with Jesus.*

What was so powerful about this? What happened when He returned? Let’s go down to verse 14 “ *Then **Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee,** and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.” Luke 4:14 (NKJV) When Jesus overcame being tempted in all points for forty days He returned in the power of the Spirit! He was our example!*

Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection were all right on schedule. Nothing was done a minute before or a second late. Jesus’ footsteps were for an appointed time, right? His steps were appointed by God to be a ransom for us at the right and proper time! “*For there [is only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and men, **the Man Christ Jesus,** ⁶ **Who gave Himself as a ransom for all [people, a fact that was] attested to at the right and proper time.**” 1 Tim 2:5-6 (AMPC)*

NOW LET'S LOOK AT PETER?

When Peter was imprisoned for preaching in the name of Jesus in Acts, we see this happened. *“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. ⁶ And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. ⁷ Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.” ⁹ **So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.** ¹⁰ When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.”* Acts 12:5-10 (NKJV) Wow! Even when preaching the gospel we can overcome! We see first that the church was interceding for Peter, and supernaturally God placed an angel before him to lead him out of this impossible situation! This experience was so surreal that Peter honestly thought he was having a vision!

This sounds almost like what God told the children of Israel. *“Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹ Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. ²² But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.”*

Exodus 23:20-22 (NKJV) God is still placing angels before us to lead us into the place He has prepared! What are angels anyways? Concerning angels we read, *“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”* Hebrews 1:14 (NKJV) This isn’t just about an eternal salvation; this is salvation here and now!

WHAT ABOUT DAVID?

In 1 Samuel 17:17-20 there was a battle going on between the Israelites and the Philistines. Do you realize that the only reason David even showed up at this battle was because his dad Jesse had asked him to deliver food to the army and get a report of how they were doing? Do you know that even in the most menial tasks if we have been praying for guidance, the Holy Spirit leads us!

God had already been preparing David for this day by giving him a bear and a lion to overcome. (vs 37) But we know the rest of the story! Glory!

Remember what Paul wrote in Ephesians, *“Honor your father and mother;” which is the first commandment with promise:”* Ephesians 6:2 (NKJV) By obeying his father Jesse, this kept David’s steps ordered by the Lord.

WHAT ABOUT Jael?

In Judges 4 we read Jabin was the king of Israel, and he had oppressed the Israelites for 20 years. (vs 3) Sisera was the commander of his army. (vs 2) Deborah was the judge in that day, and she had prophesied that a woman would take out Sisera. (vs 9) God confused Sisera’s army. (vs 15) All of Sisera’s army was pursued by Barak. He was a good guy, Deborah’s

friend. (vs 16) Sisera came to the tent of Heber whom he “thought” he had peace with. (vs 17)

Jael (The wife of Heber) is just sitting in this tent and in walks her divine appointment! Are you kidding me? Was she the woman that Deborah prophesied about? Was she expecting to be used by God that morning? Are you expecting God to use you today? You can serve God without leaving your country. God can bring the divine appointments right into your home! Glory!

Now let's continue in Judges 4. *“But Sisera fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. ¹⁸ And Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; have no fear. So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. ¹⁹ And he said to her, Give me, I pray you, a little water to drink for I am thirsty. And she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. ²⁰ And he said to her, Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, Is there any man here? Tell him, No. ²¹ But Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent pin and a hammer in her hand and went softly to him and drove the pin through his temple and into the ground; for he was in a deep sleep from weariness. So he died.”*

Judges 4:17-21 (AMPC) God used this unsuspecting woman to take out a terrible adversary. Remember that we wrestle not with flesh and blood these days. God wants to use you in the realm of the spirit to put an end to the work of the spirits of opposition!

DO NOT GET TOO RELIGIOUS AND MISS THE OPPORTUNITIES...

Now, let's take a different look at Peter and John in the book of Acts. "Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour." Now, please see the context here, Peter and John were on their way to a prayer meeting at the ninth hour. "²*And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;* ³*who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.*" Acts 3:1-3 (NKJV) Did they know that God was ordering their footsteps? God was preparing them for something more outrageous BEFORE they arrived at the prayer meeting! God was going to answer their prayers with an impressive testimony outside of the temple! Glory!

Now, moving on to verse 4, ⁴*And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."* ⁵*So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.* ⁶*Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."* ⁷*And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.* ⁸*So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God."* Acts 3:4-8 (NKJV) This man was asking for alms, yet he got legs! Talk about Ephesians 3:20 in its finest manifestation! In Acts 4 we read, "*...the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.*" Acts 4:22 (NKJV)

Now, what if Peter and John had just gone on into the temple to their prayer meeting? They would have missed this opportunity! We are to take time for the kingdom, we are to be about the Father's business! This act of obedience opened up a door for Peter to preach right after it happened!

WHAT ABOUT PAUL?

Paul was on the road to Damascus and all the while His steps were ordered by God, In Acts we read, "*Then Saul, **still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord**, went to the high priest² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, **whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.**" Acts 9:1-2 (NKJV) Do you mean God can still direct the steps of someone with a heart like this? He sure can when the effectual fervent prayers of righteous men and women are availing much! (James 5:16)*

Moving on to verse 3, "³ *As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.* ⁴ *Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"* ⁵ **And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"** (Isn't that ironic that he asked Jesus Who He was, but then still called Him Lord? He must have known deep down.) "*Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."* ⁶ *So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."* Acts 9:3-6 (NKJV)

We see now in verse 10 God that ordered the steps of Ananias! "*Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named*

Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹² And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." ¹³ Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." ¹⁵ **But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."** ¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ **Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.**" Acts 9:10-17 (NKJV) This is what is so special about the body of Christ, God never stops using us to help each other in our weaknesses!

Then what do we go on to read about Paul? "... He who used to persecute us is now proclaiming the very faith he once reviled and which he set out to ruin and tried with all his might to destroy. ²⁴ **And they glorified God [as the Author and Source of what had taken place] in me.**" Gal 1:23-24 (AMPC) What a miracle this was, especially for all the believers in that day!

Now, because of the steps of these good men being ordered by the Lord, we have the church epistles!

WHAT ABOUT THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER, STEPHANUS?

Do you know even in your employment God knows your heart, and even then, He sets up only the most divine appointments. Let's take a close look at this jailer in Acts 16.

*"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.²⁷ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.²⁸ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."²⁹ Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas." (Did you see that? It was dark when Paul told him not to harm himself. He must have known what the man was about to do through the Spirit of God!) "³⁰And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" "³¹**So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."**"³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house." (How did their salvation happen? They had the word of God spoken to them! Did you know God doesn't need a program to save people? His rightly divided Word is enough!) "³³And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. **And immediately he and all his family were baptized.**"³⁴ Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household." Acts 16:25-34 (NKJV)*

We see that not only did Stephanus receive salvation, but his whole family did, and it was all the result of God leading him to be the appointed jailer of that Philippian prison on that particular night!

Did you know that the household of Stephanas remained with Paul? Paul wrote about this in his letters to the Corinthians church. ***"I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—¹⁶ that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. ¹⁷ I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied."*** 1 Corinthians 16:15-17 (NKJV)

WHAT ABOUT THE GOOD SAMARITAN?

In Luke 10 Jesus tells the story of the good Samaritan to a certain lawyer when he asked Jesus, *"And who is my neighbor?"* We read beginning in verse 30, *"Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ **Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.** (This priest was the first one given this divine opportunity. Was this a coincidence? Not likely.) ³² *Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ **But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.** ³⁴ *So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On***

the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you." ³⁶ **So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?** ³⁷ **And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."** **Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."** Luke 10:30-37 (NKJV)

WHEN YOU DO UNTO THE LEAST, YOU DO UNTO HIM

In Matthew 25, when the Son of God comes in His glory to address the nations, and He separates the sheep from the goats, and He puts the sheep at His right hand, and the goats at His left we read this will happen, "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, '**Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**"" Matthew 25:34-40 (NKJV) Dear friend, please do not miss these divine appointments to give unto the Lord.

BE INSTANT IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” 2 Timothy 4:2 (NKJV) So if you are praying and expecting to be used by God, you need to preach the word of God. You do not have to have a big congregation, just speak His word!

Since divine appointments are not usually planned there will not be time for second-guessing, so we need to stay prayed up. Look at Phillip. *“Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert.* ²⁷ *So he arose and went.”* (Notice that again, God sent His angel to lead this man.) *“And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,* ²⁸ *was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.* ²⁹ *Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”* Acts 8:26-29 (NKJV) He then led the eunuch to Jesus in verse 37, and then we have another Ephesians 3:20 moment for he was translated in vs 39-40! His steps were ordered by the Lord!

TAUGHT BY GOD

Remember, Paul was taught by the Lord. *“For I want you to know, brethren, that the Gospel which was proclaimed and made known by me is not man’s gospel [a human invention, according to or patterned after any human standard]. ¹² For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but [it came to me] through a [direct] revelation [given] by Jesus Christ [the Messiah].”* Galatians 1:11-12 (AMPC)

Daniel also was taught by God. *“Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night, and Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ²⁰ Daniel answered, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever! For wisdom and might are His! ²¹ He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding! ²² He reveals the deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him! ²³ I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers, Who has given me wisdom and might and has made known to me now what we desired of You, for You have made known to us the solution to the king’s problem.”* Daniel 2:19-23 (AMPC)

HIS PROMISES OF TEACHING US TODAY ARE STILL THE SAME. TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY THESE PRECIOUS TRUTHS OVER YOUR LIFE THEN PREPARE TO BE TAUGHT, AND LED BY GOD

“I [the Lord] will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.” Psalm 32:8 (AMPC)

“But you have been anointed by [you hold a sacred appointment from, you have been -given an unction from] the Holy One, and you all know [the Truth] or you know all things.” 1 John 2:20 (AMPC)

“But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abides [permanently] in you; [so] then you have no need that anyone should instruct you. But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything and is true and is no falsehood, so you must abide in (live in, never depart from) Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him], just as [His anointing] has taught you [to do].” 1 John 2:27 (AMPC)

“But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthenener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.” John 14:26 (AMPC)

“But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].” John 16:13 (AMPC)

WHAT IS THE ONE SURE WAY WE WILL KNOW WE ARE BEING LED BY GOD?

*“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**”* John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

HE LEADS EVERY PLACE THE SOLE OF OUR FEET SHALL TREAD

“Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. Joshua 1:3 (NKJV) Nothing has changed, as He was with them, so He is with us!

***“No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life;”** (Do we believe that?) *“... as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. **I will not leave you nor forsake you.** ⁶ Be strong**

and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.⁷ **Only be strong and very courageous**, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.⁸ **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**⁹ **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**” Joshua 1:5-9 (NKJV) He is sending you, and He is with you!

“For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, **to give you hope in your final outcome.**¹² Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear and heed you.¹³ Then you will seek Me, inquire for, and require Me [as a vital necessity] **and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.**” Jeremiah 29:11-13 (AMPC)

LOOK AT THIS PRAYER FOR BOLDNESS....

“And now, Lord, observe their threats and grant to Your bond servants [full freedom] to declare Your message fearlessly,³⁰ While You stretch out Your hand to cure and to perform signs and wonders through the authority and by the power of the name of Your holy Child and Servant Jesus.³¹ **And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they**

continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage." Acts 4:29-31 (AMPC) I encourage you to pray this and believe in it today! All things are possible to him who believes!

JUST FOR YOUR MEDITATION...SPEAK THESE UNTIL YOU BELIEVE THEM

"The wind blows (breathes) where it wills; and though you hear its sound, yet you neither know where it comes from nor where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8 (AMPC) Isn't this so beautiful, and so true! Do you believe that?

"He will guard the feet of His godly ones, but the wicked shall be silenced and perish in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail." 1 Samuel 2:9 (AMPC) Do you believe that?

"I waited patiently and expectantly for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. ² He drew me up out of a horrible pit [a pit of tumult and of destruction], out of the miry clay (froth and slime), and set my feet upon a rock, steadying my steps and establishing my goings." Psalm 40:1-2 (AMPC) Do you believe that?

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills [around Jerusalem, to sacred Mount Zion and Mount Moriah]—From whence shall my help come? ² My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not allow your foot to slip or to be moved; He Who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand [the side not carrying a shield]. ⁶ The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.” Psalm 121:3-4 (AMPC) Do you believe that?

“Bless our God, O peoples, give Him grateful thanks and make the voice of His praise be heard, **9 Who put and kept us among the living, and has not allowed our feet to slip.**” Psalm 66:8-9 (AMPC) As long as we are among the living He will never allow our feet to slip. Do you believe that?

“Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are they who keep His testimonies, and who seek, inquire for and of Him and crave Him with the whole heart. 3 Yes, they do no unrighteousness [no willful wandering from His precepts]; they walk in His ways. 4 You have commanded us to keep Your precepts, that we should observe them diligently.” Psalm 119:2-4 (AMPC) Do you believe that?

“Establish my steps and direct them by [means of] Your word; let not any iniquity have dominion over me.” Psalm 119:133 (AMPC)

“Now to Him **Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling,** and to present [you] unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation [with unspeakable, ecstatic delight]— **25 To the one only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory (splendor), majesty, might and dominion, and power and authority, before all time and now and forever (unto all the ages of eternity). Amen (so be it).**” Jude 24-25 (AMPC) Do you believe that?

*“I thank my God at all times for you because of the grace (the favor and spiritual blessing) of God which was bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ [So] that **in Him in every respect you were enriched, in full power and readiness of speech [to speak of your faith] and complete knowledge and [to give you full insight into its meaning].** ⁶In this way [our] witnessing concerning Christ (the Messiah) was so confirmed and established and made sure in you ⁷**That you are not [consciously] falling behind or lacking in any special spiritual endowment or Christian grace [the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating in your souls by the Holy Spirit],** while you wait and watch [constantly living in hope] for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and [His] being made visible to all. ⁸**And He will establish you to the end [keep you steadfast, give you strength, and guarantee your vindication; He will be your warrant against all accusation or indictment so that you will be] guiltless and irreproachable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).** ⁹ God is faithful (reliable, trustworthy, and therefore ever true to His promise, and He can be depended on); **by Him you were called into companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”** 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 (AMPC) Do you believe that?*

“For by You I can run through a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.” Psalm 18:29 (AMPC) Do you believe that?

BE EXPECTING TO REAP THE RESULTS OF WHAT OTHERS HAVE LABORED FOR

*“Jesus said to them, My food (nourishment) is to do the will (pleasure) of Him Who sent Me and to accomplish and completely finish His work. ³⁵ Do you not say, It is still four months until harvest time comes? Look! I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields and see how they are already white for harvesting. ³⁶ Already the reaper is getting his wages [he who does the cutting now has his reward], for he is gathering fruit (crop) unto life eternal, so that he who does the planting and he who does the reaping may rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps. ³⁸ **I sent you to reap a crop for which you have not toiled. Other men have labored and you have stepped in to reap the results of their work.**” John 4:37-38 (AMPC) Many powerful men and women of God led by the Spirit of God, have laid some amazing foundations in God. God wants us to step in and reap for their toiling!*

Father, in the name of Jesus, we thank You that You are guiding our steps to bring the good news of the gospel to a creation that is longing for deliverance.

“And how can men [be expected to] preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings! [How welcome is the coming of those who preach the good news of His good things!]”

Romans 10:15 (AMPC)

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“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1

“So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.” Acts 19:20

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