

Reflections with Sharon

In perfect timing

Read Esther 6

Ever had one of those experiences where everything came together so beautifully and in such perfect timing that even if things had been prearranged, you just know the outcome could not have turned out any better? People tell you it was pure coincidence... you just got lucky... but you know deep down in your spirit that it just had to be God!

There's simply nothing quite like the feeling you get from knowing that the timing was just perfect. In experience after experience, I have discovered that nothing beats God's timing! He gives us a promise and our eager hearts begin to grow impatient as we wait for the fulfillment of the promise. In ourselves, we feel so ready, but to us, God seems anything but ready. That's when some of us step outside of the boundaries God has set for us and begin to try to help God fulfill His promise. Then when we're through making a mess of things, God shows up and we feel so ashamed that we hadn't waited on Him.

How often must I remind myself that I can't go wrong as long as I stay in step with God. He knows the perfect time for me to abandon a project that has outlived its purpose to make room for things that are more deeply needful. He knows when something's a waste of time and can give me the wisdom to recognize what is irrelevant and the courage to redirect my focus on what is necessary.

So often when we think God has forgotten about our request, His divine providence is at work behind the scenes, overruling in the most commonplace of human activity, even to the point of interrupting our sleep so that His purposes are fulfilled. His timing is impeccable! That's why, when He tells us to wait, we do well to obey; and when He shows us it is the right time to move, we had better follow His leading and move!

Giving up something that no longer works or is no longer effective; whether it be a project, a friendship, a ministry, a program, or whatever; can make a world of difference if done at the right time and for the right reasons. Some of us are in relationships with people we should have given up a long time ago, while there are those who are ready to embrace and celebrate us for who we are. Others of us continue to work at jobs that stress us out, attend churches that leave us dry, volunteer for programs for which we have no passion and pursue choices that add no meaning to our lives, all because we are out of tune and were not watching for God's perfect timing.

But those who are serious about making their life count know the only sure way to avoid a life of regrets is to keep in step with God's timing.