

TIMING

This week a woman came up to me and said, “Pastor, your sermon last Sunday was awe-inspiring! I needed to be reminded that God’s timing is perfect.” Don’t we all need to be reminded of that? ***“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law”*** (Galatians 4:4). The phrase “had fully come” is a very picturesque Greek expression. It speaks of something that is complete and fully developed, like a ripe apple ready to be picked. It describes the time in history when all things were in place, when all the pieces were laid out correctly; that one moment when the stage was perfectly set. At that instant, God sent forth His Son Jesus to be born of a virgin. He came at the appointed time - not a moment too late, not a second too early. When the time had “fully come,” Christmas Day was set in motion. And when the time is “fully come,” He will keep all His promises to you. God’s timing is perfect.

Notice that the Christmas miracle started long before Bethlehem. It took place over many centuries as God prepared the world for the coming of His Son. Likewise, your miracle is being prepared over a period of time. So don’t grow weary in doing good, and don’t give up on God. He exercised His supreme authority over reality, even over time itself, to fulfil His plan at just the right moment. The birth of Christ didn't happen by accident, but according to God's sovereign plan. Therefore, remind yourself today of God's absolute influence over all things, even time. God works all things together for your good - in the right time. Of course, God's timing is not necessarily your own. Sometimes God seems inexcusably slow, other times God surprises us with the swiftness of His grace. Yet, no matter how we might feel about God's timing, it is always the best. It’s always perfect!

Most of us struggle with God’s timing. Often, we can easily become frustrated, even doubting Him. However, be reassured that God works all things together for good in His time and in His way. Trust in Him more, seek Him more, and live each day in the fullness of His time for you. I love the way Charles Spurgeon put it; *“There are no loose threads in the providence of God ... The great clock of the universe keeps good time.”* Some of us need to hear this because we secretly fear that God has forgotten us. Perhaps you’ve come to the end of this year with a sense of disappointment or a sense of dread about what next year will bring. But fear not, God’s timing is perfect. And remember this.... You are never far from your miracle - God is faithful!