

## Suddenly

**\*\*\*Ex) My December Rose...** Story of coming home this week (the week of my 45<sup>th</sup> birthday) near Christmas and seeing reddish pink buds on my rose bush. I wondered if they will ever bloom now that it is a very cold December day. I thought how much of a waste it had been to have them start towards their final, shining moment and be stopped in mid cycle by freezing temperatures...stagnant. Will they ever bloom?

Then, I started to feel the little pangs of spiritual impact when you feel like God is speaking to you. Because God speaks to me prophetically with roses sometimes.



**\*\*\*Ex)** After Jim and I lost our second baby through miscarriage, we pulled up in the driveway to see a giant, plate-size, pure white rose in full bloom on a bush that hadn't bloomed in two months. It was miraculous. And whether anyone else felt the impact, we did. We knew God was promising us that we would have children...six, short weeks later...I found out I was going to have our first daughter, Maggie.

---But this moment, this week, I felt like that December rose...struggling to reach God's intended version of "me." And I wondered how many of us 20 somethings, 30 somethings, 40 somethings and up, feel like God has given us a promise and a dream of what we could accomplish through Him, and we are still waiting for the "big reveal" of His purpose.

---I felt like God spoke and said to me and I want this to be a word for you today as well,

**\*\*\**"you have everything you need to bloom, all it takes is one, "son"-filled moment."***

***You see, God loves divine suddenlies. Just when you think He doesn't care, or doesn't hear...here He comes in a "son-filled" moment and Pow! Suddenly Doors open...promises are fulfilled...change comes!***

**\*\*\*Today's teaching is simply called, "Suddenly" Error!  
Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.**

**---I can't tell you how many divine suddenlies I have seen happen. I can't tell you how many friends or family that I've had going through what seemed like an endless valley and then "Hahhhhh, the sun peered over the mountain tops and...their breakthrough came or their door opened!**

**God loves Divine Suddenlies...**

A "divine suddenly" is when God chooses to come to you in an instant of time, very suddenly and release his glory and power unto men. There are many instances of this throughout our Bibles.

### 1. The Shepherds Had A Divine Suddenly.

Luke 2:11-14

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And **suddenly** there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

### 2. The 120 In Upper Room Had A Divine Suddenly

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And **suddenly** there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

### 3. Saul Had A Divine Suddenly

Acts 9:3-5

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

### 4. Paul And Silas Had A Divine Suddenly

Acts 16:25-26

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

But in today's teaching, it isn't nearly as important to talk about the suddenlies of God (they are a given) but maybe more the "sadly-s" of us who are waiting on Him to move.

---It's a bummer isn't it? **Time seems to be the biggest issue we deal with when we start celebrating more birthdays than we can count...Patience with the wait and the preparation.**

There is a reason for it all...and there is a phrase that I like to say which is, ***"The promise will be worth the wait if you let the wait have worth."***

**\*(cue film clip here of Surfs up, "making the surf board scene")**

**\*Comments: "Just give me the tools, just give me the tool" impatient. The Mentor says, "Let the tool do the work."**

**\*Although Physical preparedness is essential, it is only a small part of the equation. God wants to spiritually equip and prepare His People for the suddenly that will occur. He wants to be the tool that is used to prepare us for excellence. He uses spiritual Fathers and Mothers and mentors and authority figures in your life to do it. Coupled with your physical preparation, this is God's order... IN other words preparedness and excellence take time and patience!!!!**

### **Mark 13:33-36**

<sup>33</sup>“Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come.  
<sup>34</sup>“*It is* like a man away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, *assigning* to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.

<sup>35</sup>“Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the morning—  
<sup>36</sup>in case he should come **suddenly** and find you asleep.

<sup>37</sup>“What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”

**Commentary:** (NASB life application study bible p.1709) months of planning go into a wedding, the birth of a baby, a career change, a speaking engagement, the purchase of a home. Do you place the same importance on preparing for Christ's return, the most important event in your life? Its results will last for eternity. You dare not postpone your preparations because you do not know when his return will occur. The way to prepare is to study God's Word and live by its instructions each day. Only then will you be ready.

### **\*1. Human/physical “prepare” Esther 5:8**

[qv://0/anchor/8](#)<sup>8</sup>If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall **prepare** for them, and I will do to-morrow as the king hath said.

**‘aśah**

*aw-saw'*

to *do* or *make*,—accomplish,

## **\*2. God/Spiritual “Prepare” Psalm 78:19**

<sup>19</sup> Yea, they spake against God;  
They said, Can God **prepare** a table in the wilderness?

ʿārak

*aw-rak'*

to set in a *row*, that is, *arrange*, put in order

**How do we prepare effectively for the call of God on our lives without striving against His timing and will?**

## **Hebrews 6:11-15 (NASB)**

[qvb://0/anchor/11](#)<sup>11</sup> And we desire that each one of you may show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end

[qvb://0/anchor/12](#)<sup>12</sup> So that you will not be sluggish, but **imitators of those** who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

14 Saying, “I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you.

15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

## Spiritual preparation

1. Remain “diligent”, “hopeful”, and not “lazy” (vs. 11,12)

**Diligent**- characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort : **PAINSTAKING** effort!

\*this is not “pain-staking” this is Pains- “taking”

Ex) Bring Allie up to talk about swimming for a second



Ex) Athletes put weights on their ankles willingly in order to condition themselves to run without hindrance when the time comes. If you don't push yourself by stirring up your spirit with the discipline of the God's word and allowing God to test you and even allowing the rod of correction to come, you will be spiritually out of shape when you need to run.

Vs. (11) ***“to realize the full assurance of hope”*** Here, the word of God is saying to us to not lose sight of God's promises. How? Believe God is not a man that He should lie.

(Hope keeps the Christian from becoming lazy or feeling bored. Like an athlete, train hard and run well, remembering the reward that lies ahead

(Philipians 3:14,15)

<sup>14</sup>**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

[qv://0/anchor/16](#)<sup>15</sup>**Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;**

2. Another facet of Spiritual Preparation are “**trials and testing**”

(the crucible for silver and furnace for Gold, but God tests the hearts of man)

Vs. 15- 15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

\*Because our trials and temptations are often so intense, they seem to last for an eternity. Both the Bible and the testimony of mature Christians encourage us to wait for God to act in his timing, even when our needs seem too great to wait any longer.

\*The Promises of Abraham were only attained by righteousness and obedience to the laws and ordinances God set before him.

**\*Proclaiming the gospel is not an activity in which we periodically and temporarily engage the Lord’s servants on the earth are missionaries at all times and in all places—and we always will be.**

**\*St. Francis of Assisi said, “Preach the Gospel at all times, use words when necessary.”**