

☞ Suddenly

Numbers 16:42 *After the earth swallowed up Korah and his followers for their rebellion, more people grumbled against Moses...*

But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the Tent of Meeting, suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared.

When people are giving you grief, especially for just trying to follow the Lord, God can suddenly appear to deal with the situation.

1 Kings 19:5-6 *Elijah was on the run from Jezebel.*

Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

☞ When you're worried and weary, God may suddenly show up to **strengthen and speak to you**.

2 Kings 2:11

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Even when you're just going about your daily business, God can suddenly enter your situation.

Isaiah 29:5

But your many enemies will become like fine dust, the ruthless hordes like blown chaff. Suddenly, in an instant

When it seems like the enemy has the upper hand and you're being overwhelmed, God can suddenly, in an instant wipe them out.

Jeremiah 51:8 *Babylon represents the enemy & his sinful influence; the word Babylon means confusion.* Babylon will suddenly fall and be broken.

☞ Again, the enemy and his **sinful influence can suddenly be broken**. The confusion that the enemy stirs among the people can suddenly be broken and the truth shine through.

Daniel 4:33 *Neb was prideful and wouldn't acknowledge the Lord.*

Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

Be careful to guard your heart against pride. God can suddenly knock you off your high horse.

Malachi 3:1 *When people question whether God is just or not.*

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

☞ Seek the Lord. Trust him. **God can suddenly bring about justice**.

Matthew 8:3

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

Matthew 20:34 *Blind men expressed their desire to the Lord.*

Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Mark 5:29 *The woman touched the hem of Jesus' cloak.*

Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

Mark 5:42 *Jairus' daughter died. Jesus said she was only sleeping. The crowd laughed at him.*

Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

Mark 10:52 *Bartimaeus shouted for mercy and asked for his sight.*

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

☞ No matter what ails you, the Lord is able to **instantly cure** it. Even the worst-case scenario is not beyond his ability. **Talk to God and express your needs and desires.** He often asked, "What do you want?" So, tell him and you may be surprised at his immediate response.

Mark 13:36

If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

This reminds us to always be ready. More on that later.

Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

This is fitting as we enter into the Christmas season. The shepherds were going about their regular business, when suddenly God lit them up with a message of good news. The world was sleeping on what seemed to be any ordinary night, when suddenly the Savior was born. God with us.

Luke 5:25 *A paralyzed man's friend lowered him through the roof to Jesus. Jesus proved his authority.*

Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

Luke 13:13 *A woman crippled for 18 years by an evil spirit.*

Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

John 5:7-9

"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." 8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Whether your friends are supportive or not; whether you're afflicted by demonic powers; even if you're ☞ unable to do anything at all in your own strength, **God can all at once change your situation.**

Acts 2:2 *The believers were together in one place.*

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

God can decide to pour out his spirit at any time. This is also a reminder that unity is important to the Lord. It was one of his last prayers for his followers – that we **be in unity with each other.**

Acts 9:3 *Saul was on his way to capture Christians*

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

☞ God can even **suddenly intervene in an evil person's life.** Don't think that anyone is too far gone for God to reach them. **Keep on praying.**

Acts 9:18 *When Ananias placed his hands on Saul...*

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Here's one for us Pentecostals. When we pray for the sick with laying on of hands, God can suddenly do ☞ a **healing work. Don't you doubt it!**

Acts 9:34 *While Peter was visiting the saints in Lydda.*

"Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up.

Here's another one for you servants of the Lord. You may be just doing your "normal" ministry, when God wants to suddenly expand it into something much more.

Acts 12:7 *Peter was in prison but the church was earnestly praying for him.*

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

Keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18).

Acts 12:23 *When the people said Herod was a god.*

Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

Acts 13:11 *Elymas the sorcerer opposed Paul and Barnabas.*

Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

God can suddenly deal with those who oppose him and his people. Don't think that evil wins. **God wins**. And **God can suddenly turn** what seems like evil triumphing into a disaster for them. Trust God.

Acts 16:26 *Paul and Silas were praying and singing in prison.*

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

Here's a good reminder for us all. No matter the circumstance, we should **keep on praying and praising**. Even when it seems the enemy has the upper hand; even when we feel that our strength is gone; even when everything seems to be going wrong, keep on praising the Lord. God can suddenly **deliver you**.

- He shows up in response to prayer, to praise, to worship, to singing, to his children's cry
- He shows up in the form of an earthquake--a shaking, a commotion

God is still the same God that answered Paul and Silas when they praised Him in the moment of their need! God is the same God that will answer you in your time of need! Don't underestimate the "Power of your Praise."

- God's "suddenlys" are from heaven - He is the sovereign One. Though the enemy may instigate and seem to orchestrate, it is God in heaven who regulates.

- God's "suddenlys" will change or interrupt your life. As you journey, as you're living your life, He will come. He wants to interrupt what you're doing, to show you what He's doing and wants to do in you.

- God's "suddenlys" will shake you loose from the prison that holds you. Even a prison has a foundation. But His power comes suddenly and works immediately.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

And, one day, very soon, God will do one of the most profound "suddenlies" ever! **Jesus is coming soon** and it will happen suddenly – in a flash; in the twinkling of an eye; and we will be changed. Suddenly!

So, in all kinds of situations, God can suddenly intervene. God can suddenly heal. God can suddenly overturn the enemy. God can suddenly set you free. God can suddenly speak to you and strengthen you.

So, how should we respond?

1 Corinthians 15:58 *after talking about the change in a twinkling of an eye...*

Therefore, my dear brothers, **stand firm**. Let nothing move you. Always **give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord**, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

I've already mentioned **prayer, praise, serving, unity and humility**.

Luke 12:35-37

☞ "Be dressed **ready for service** and keep your lamps burning, 36 like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them **watching** when he comes.

☞ *Expectancy is the breeding ground for encounters*

Psalms 5:3

In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

*Are you ready to confuse the enemy?

*Are you ready for a suddenly moment?

☞ **Malachi 3:1**

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then **suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come** to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

Faithful Now