

THE CHANCE FACTOR IN LIFE

Chance means: something that happens unpredictably without discernible human intention or observable cause. The events that happen that are not planned or controlled.

The English word “chance” comes from the old French word meaning (accident, chance, luck)

Four things to note.

1. Taking every opportunity available to us.

Ephesians 5:16 (niv) making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Colossians 4:5 (net) Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunities.

Galatians 6:10 (net) So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the family of faith.

**2. God has no special time or season to work,
He is at work all the time, everywhere.**

He is not waiting for conditions to improve or for something to be more acceptable to Him.

In war, peace, even a pandemic, God is at **work**.

3. **Every day there are opportunities around us even if we don't see them, they do exist.**
4. Francis of Assisi said, ***“don't go to preach - preach as you go.”***

Jesus also said, *“As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'”* **Matthew 10:7 (niv)**

*“It seems that God is in the **interruptions** of my life and seldom in my plans.”* - **Gloria Gather**

The gospels record occasions when **unplanned** and **unscheduled** events confront Jesus. Which resulted in amazing miracles and interventions that changed people's lives and circumstances.

These encounters could be viewed as **interruptions**, rather, were divine opportunities brilliantly disguised, where Jesus displayed God's love and power.

What about those things that we encounter that can be considered as **interruptions**, but could be divinely arranged **disguised** opportunities.

Some chance encounters recorded in the Gospels.

1. **The Samaritan and the dying man.**

Luke 10:31-34 (kjv) And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

While preaching to the multitudes a prominent ruler “Jairus” appeared before Jesus asking him to come and pray for his daughter. On the way to pray for Jairus daughter Jesus encounters the women with the issue of blood.

2. The lady with issue of blood.

Luke 8:42-43 for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. A woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her living on physicians, and could not be healed by any.

Mark 5:24-27 He went with him, and a great multitude followed him, and they pressed upon him on all sides. A certain woman, who had an issue of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things by many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched His garment.

3. The widow and her dead son

*Luke 7:11-15 It happened soon afterwards, that He went to a city called Nain. Many of His disciples went with Him, along with a great multitude. Now when He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, one who was dead was carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Many people of the city were with her. **When the Lord saw her**, He had compassion on her, and said to her, "Don't cry." He came near and touched the coffin, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" He who was dead sat up, and began to speak. He gave him to his mother.*

4. Jesus meets Zacchaeus

*Luke 19.1:2 He entered and was passing through Jericho. There was a man named **Zacchaeus**. He was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.*

Totally unplanned but nothing really happens by chance, or accident **because** God arranges these encounters.

5. The man with leprosy.

Luke 5:12 It happened, while He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man full of leprosy. When He saw Jesus, he fell on his face, and begged Him, saying, "Lord, if you want to, you can make me clean."

6. The man with a withered hand.

Luke 6:6 It also happened on another Sabbath, that He entered into the synagogue and taught. There was a man there, and his right hand was withered.

7. The 10 lepers.

*Luke 17:12-14 It happened, as He was on His way to Jerusalem, that He was passing along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. As **He entered** into a certain village, ten men who were lepers met Him, who stood far away. They lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"*

8. The two blind men.

*Matthew 20:30 (kjv) Behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that **Jesus passed by**, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. and **He healed them.***

Don't miss our opportunities both personal and plural (as a church).

Opportunities are before us every day – look for them. Expect them to be a part of your journey. Opportunities to do good, show kindness, care, and compassion to someone are all around us.

Take every advantage of them when they are presented to you.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon once said, *“I think how poverty stricken my life has been compared with my opportunities.”*

Our faith needs to ‘cry out’ with a strong and emphatic voice *“that God is at work”*, and that nothing restrains His hands from doing His will in heaven, earth and hell.

Let us develop the habit where we are consistently straining and searching to see more of God’s hidden work that He is doing around us.