

“Handprints”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Every fingerprint and therefore every handprint is unique; not even twins have the same prints. Likewise each Believer has a unique testimony. Our Heavenly Father has affected, inspired and healed each Believer in their unique situation.

Our Heavenly Father is so multi-faceted in his abilities that he is able to use each unique testimony as a weapon against the plans of Satan, as stated in Revelation: “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”^[a]

So how do we use our testimony to fight the enemy? We tell it. Telling people about what Jesus has done for us and how the Holy Spirit works in and through us brings freedom and hope to people because through our testimony they can see that if God did it for us he can and is willing to do it for them also.

We, as Believers, “walk by faith, not by sight”^[b] Unbelievers do not yet do this, so our testimonies of how the power of the name of Jesus worked in our lives is a way for them to “see” so they can come to faith in Jesus.

Notes:

[a] Rev
12:11
NIV
[b] 2
Cor. 5:7
KJV
[c] Jn
6:44

Our Heavenly Father has a plan for each of us and he has assigned each of us specific people to reach. Our specific testimonies have elements that those assigned to us need to hear for their hearts to be turned to faith in Jesus just like each key is cut in a specific way to fit into and open the lock it was made to work. Some people will only need to hear one testimony, others may need to hear many for their hearts to turn to Jesus. The important thing for Believers is that they tell their testimony whenever the Lord prompts them to do so. A Believer’s success is in obedience, not in whether or not the person they tell comes to know Christ immediately. It is our job to spread the Good News, it is The Father’s job to draw people to him.^[c] So let’s each use our unique stories to do our part for God’s glory.

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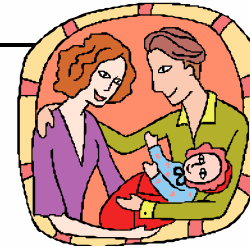
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...with The Sojourner

“Prepared In Advance” (Teaching Sketch)

Jeremiah 1:4-8 (NIV)



When I was in Junior High School the Vice Principal from the high school came to talk to us about the subjects we would need to take to be able to graduate from high school. These he told us were the required classes we must take. Then he told us there were also subjects we could “elect” to take from a list. These subjects would be the ones which would fill out our high school curriculum so we would have the required number of course credits to graduate.

He explained we would need to determine the direction educationally we wished to pursue and not to take certain classes just because our friends were taking them because it was at this point we would need to specialize in order to accomplish the life we wanted.

Big changes were about to happen in our life directions.

It was at this point many students found their parents injecting guidance and

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.^[b] ¹⁶Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (Luke 1:11-17 NIV)
^[b] Or from his mother's womb

Notes:
[a]

asserting specific wishes, desires, and hopes for their children’s lives. Many of these feelings and desires having been in their thoughts since before their child was born. Many of the parents had very serious “discussions” in some cases quite contentious re-

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Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-8 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew^[a] you, before you were born I set you apart;

I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

⁶"Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

Notes:

[a]
Or *chose*

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know they are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for them to do.



Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** (*Offerings are placed in the basket at this time.*)
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

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Jeremiah 1:4-8 (NIV)



regarding what was to be done to complete high school.

A Parent's Desire

This was the first time for many of the students to learn that their parents had such deep and detailed desires and plans for them.

Many of the parents were actually demonstrating their deep love for their child by attempting to guide them in a direction for the student's own good. This guidance was at times not well received. Sometimes the child's response was, "It's my life. I'll do as I please!" Some of the students had a family business they chose to prepare themselves to one day own and manage. The responses to parental guidance was varied.

God's Plan!

God has always had a plan for his creation mankind. His plan has always been to bless mankind, male and female, which he created with a purpose in mind. God's desire was for continual fellowship with mankind and for mankind to spread God's Kingdom on earth represented by The Garden as a prototype

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

(*Eph. 4:11-12 NIV*)

and in doing so for man to have dominion over all the earth!

Anointed Plans

God's plans are by their very existence "anointed plans!" When a person is not only doing a godly thing but the very godly thing God has prepared in advance for them to do all they do is anointed. If

I do a godly thing that is not the godly thing God had for me to do, I am in rebellion!

I must seek God and his plan for me if I am to be truly happy, obedient, and fulfilled. My obedience is very much to have a, "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" attitude and behavior. You see God looks on my heart and your heart as well as our behaviors.

We must seek him to find what it is he has prepared in advanced for us to do and be about the doing of it. When Jesus was a boy and his parents took him to the temple in Jerusalem with them he was immediately engaged with the temple leaders regarding Godly matters. We must be about our anointed, prepared in advanced business, also!

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