

Timing is everything. Comedians know it. They deliberately speak at a certain tempo so that their jokes hit the audience with maximum effect. Smart shoppers know it. Whether they're buying a new car or just a loaf of bread, they know when a seller is most likely to give them the best price.

Timing is everything, and we all think we know it, too. That is, sometimes we are sure that we know the perfect time for God to provide us with a certain blessing or remove a certain problem. And more often than not, that "perfect time" to us is "immediately".

God is a master of perfect timing. In his letter to the Romans Paul says, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly" (5:6). In his infinite wisdom God knew that it would be best if the Savior came into the world and gave his life at a certain time, and he kept to that divine schedule. While he lived on earth Jesus never veered from that schedule. Once, when his brothers urged him (mockingly) to go to Jerusalem and publicly proclaim his power Jesus answered, ""The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right" (John 7:6b).

Today, let's remember why God insisted upon this particular schedule: because he loved us so much. Everything that Jesus did he did with an eye on us. He wanted to offer his life for us. He wanted us to know him and believe in him. And he knew that this schedule was the best means to do so.

If God carefully arranged the perfect timing of Jesus' saving work, he certainly will also give us exactly what we need at just the right time. When we feel we are lacking something, he will give us what we lack at just the right time - neither too soon nor too late. If we feel we need his healing power, if God knows it is best for us to receive it we will receive that healing at just the right time - neither too soon nor too late. And more and more, we will come to appreciate the words of the psalm writer David: "My times are in your hands" (Psalm 31:15a).

Prayer: Dear Father, my times are in your hands. You know how long I will live on this earth, what challenges I will face, and what blessings you have planned for me. As you have so wonderfully taken care of my salvation, help me trust that you will govern my earthly life according to the schedule you know is best. Forgive my impatience. Give me what I need to get through this day, even as I trust that you will provide for every day of my future. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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