

Pentecostals of Dadeville – Rev Andrew Salinas
Accidents: God’s Detour
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Question: How many of you have been in a car accident before?

To most people, accidents are not pleasant experiences and perhaps are even bitter experiences. However, have you ever thought that God’s hands were in the middle of your accident?

In our life’s journey to heaven, we will run into a few accidents on our way. Probably, those accidents will not be pleasant memories. Perhaps they may take us to places we did not plan to go. However, we must remember our life’s accidents are divinely orchestrated.

For the sake of discussion, let’s define life’s accidents as situations and incidents in our lives that have:

- Been traumatic
- Caused long-term hurt (emotionally and physically)
- Altered our lives unwillingly
- Left a bitterness and an anger
- Resulted in huge disappointment

Key point: God sees things you don’t see.

What if a builder decides to build a house without a **blueprint** or a detailed plan?

This thing is one of the most essential parts of a building. As a builder begins to pour the foundation and prepare to build, he must already have this blueprint in his hands. If you go to a building site, you will see PVC pipes sticking out from the foundations, and it makes you wonder what’s going on. Someone who doesn’t have a blueprint doesn’t understand. But to the one who has a blueprint, everything makes perfect sense.

We often live our lives and run into our “accidents,” and we decide that these are terrible things without realizing the entire plan of God in our lives. To God, who knows our entire plan, our “accidents” have meanings.

Ps. 139: 15-16

The wise King Solomon teaches us this truth in Ecclesiastes. (Cookie)

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Everything has timing and there are reasons for them—even bitter situations and problems in our lives. Solomon continues on and talks about times for different situations.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

The truth is that God will make everything beautiful in the conclusion.

Question: What does it mean to be beautiful?

It means better than good. It means extraordinary. God is trying to make something awesome and wonderful out of your life, even with bad accidents.

So what should we do when we run into problems? Let’s study someone who has accidents. List the following factors about Job from the Bible:

1. **Accidents: trials/problems—Job lost everything he had including his own children.**
2. **If you were in Job’s shoes, how would you react?**
3. **How did he react? –He kept on and believed in God.**

His attitude:

Job 1:21

His faith:

Job 19:25

4. **The end results—Double portion of blessing.**

As we study Job, we quickly find that he had to deal with a big mess in his life. However, he continued on. Job’s situation got so bad that he cried out in Job 23:

In other words, Job couldn’t figure out where God was in his situation. So what did he decide to do? Verses 10 and 11 state that he stayed on God’s path that he had been on.

Question—If you ever get lost in the woods and it's getting dark, what should you do?

I don't know about you, but I'd stay in the path instead of wonder off to the light or smoke that you may see. However, that's what many people do. They run to the quickest solution they can find, even if it means leaving God's path.

Next time you run into an accident in your life, remember this is a part of the plan of God. Indeed, Job tells us in verse 10 that it's just a test.

A test is given to help students find out about themselves. It is not meant to hurt them. God gives us our tests in life to find out about ourselves to help us. So keep on believing and trusting God like Job. At the end, you will come out as pure as gold.

Illustration—“Unfolding the Rosebud”

Remember, sometimes you just have to let go of your problem and wait on God.

He has been there all the time.

Luke 24:13-35—two disciples walking down to Emmaus.

- They ran into the accident that they didn't plan on (Crucifixion of Jesus Christ)
- They were devastated, confused, hurt and lost.

Perhaps you may have felt like these two disciples when you ran into your accident. However, they missed the fact that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us.

Some of us travel through our lives just like these two disciples. While Christ has been there all the time, we look around and wonder where God is in our big mess that we are dealing with. Like these disciples, we need to be careful not to be so blinded by our situations that we cannot see that God is in the midst of them. Open your eyes and see Jesus in the midst of your accidents.

Remember the scripture promises us in Hebrew 13:5.

How did those disciples find out it was Jesus? It was when Jesus broke the bread, and they saw His nail-scarred hands. Through studying the Word of God, you will begin to understand that He has been there all the time. It's time for you to see that His nail-scarred hands are the same hands that your life is in. He has been there all the time.

Conclusion:

There may be some accidents that you are facing today. They may have led you to a place you do not want to be. They may have left scar in your life. They may have made you wonder and doubt. However, we must remember that accidents in our lives are divinely coordinated. One wise man once said that the farthest way about is the nearest way home. Don't ever think that an accident is keeping you from the goal. It may be the nearest way to your Heavenly home.

Unfortunately, your new Birth experience will not make you 100% exempt from accidents in your life. However, it will help you to go through accidents with the help of God. Indeed, the Bible teaches us about this in **Matthew 5:45**.

In other words, accidents are not avoidable. They will happen. However, your response to accidents can show others about yourself.

Matthew 7:24-27—This storm is the accident that we have been talking about. If your house is built upon the solid rock (the Word of God, Jesus Christ) you don't have to fear the storm or accidents.

In our selfish minds, we may consider this storm a problem. However, remember that God did not place your accident and problem without a reason. We must remember to see our problems, difficult situations, painful events, and trails from God's viewpoint. This may be a simple test to see what you are made of.

Challenge: Personalize and memorize the following key scriptures from today's lesson.

1. Psalm 139:16
2. Ecclesiastes 3:1
3. Hebrews 13:5