

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## Providence: Why God Moves As He Does

### 1 Peter 5:10

Sunday, October 20, 2019

In an earlier message, **Hebrews 1:3** was presented to put forth the idea of the providence of God. The text says “**he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**” It was explained that to “uphold” means to carry things along from one place or condition to another. This implies that each time God does or allows something, He does it or allows it so that the next thing can take place. And as these seemingly unrelated or isolated events occur, they all eventually come together to form the complete picture He intended to create.

It is one thing to know that God guides providentially, but another to get an understanding of His reasons for doing so.

Here we will find that He leads by His hand of providence to position you, to protect you, and to “sync” you.

### TO POSITION YOU

The book of Esther records a stirring exhortation given to her by her uncle Mordecai as she considered risking her life to deliver her people, the Jews.

**Esther 4:14b**

**And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”**

As you look back over your life, remembering the isolated events, you may be able to see that God was at work putting the pieces together to bring you to the place you are now. You may or may not like your present state and situation, but it is the very best position you could have to bring about the desires of your heart.

Here is something to think about: If you do not step up to this opportunity, God's purpose will still prevail through someone else. But life for you could well diminish.

**Esther 4:14a**

**For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish.**

God has always been at work providing for you with opportunities, skills, training, family support, or some other thing.

## **TO PROTECT YOU**

When life comes to extremes, it is no time to give up. Ironically, this could be the very moment when God springs into action to protect you.

There are multiple instances in the Bible where people were guided and protected providentially. Think on these questions: When Jonah was thrown overboard into the Mediterranean Sea, why did he not drown? When the three Hebrew men were thrown into the fiery furnace, why did they not burn? When the prophet Elijah ate some of the widow woman's last meal, why did she not starve?

You can certainly tell stories of your own youthful foolishness – driving at breakneck speed, pulling stunts that should have gotten you killed, involvement in work-related accidents, having surgeries that could have gone wrong. This all should compel you to think, "It's a wonder I'm still here!"

It was because of God's providence that you are still here!

### **1 Peter 5:10**

**But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**

(\*ill. Young boy's rite of passage)

## **TO "SYNC" YOU**

God works on His time scale and not ours. Some events are scheduled completely independently from us. You have noticed phrases like "at the right time" in the Scriptures. God's own timing was demonstrated times without number. We do not necessarily need to know the reasons why God chooses specific times for certain events. As the old folks would often say, "We'll understand it better by and by."

Ironically, though, sometimes God's timing is determined by you. You may be more ready than you think (or less ready). He also determines when He will move on your behalf based on your own willingness and readiness. For instance, God may have been trying to lead you in a certain direction some time ago. There are several reasons why He may have chosen to wait.

As you look back you may see that the Lord was working in His timing to put you at the place of significant challenge when you would gain the most from the experience and be mature enough to handle the moment.

## **Conclusion**

You may have been praying for some thing for a very long time now. Unless God has told you no, keep praying and remember that God works to accomplish His will. He will certainly position and protect you in His own glorious time – not yours.