

# *The Spiritual Timing of God*



**Richard C. Hobbs**

**Understand God's Timing  
in the Evangelism of This  
World.**

*"This book will help you to discover  
the way God can clearly lead you to  
be on time in all things."*

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**From the Foreword by  
Arthur Blessitt**

# The Spiritual Timing of God

By **Richard C. Hobbs**

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## Contents

Foreword .....	ii
Introduction .....	iii
Chapter One In His Time .....	1
Chapter Two Obstacles to the Timing of God .....	5
Chapter Three What Time is It? .....	9
Chapter Four The Eternity of Time .....	14
Chapter Five Walking In His Timing .....	17

## Foreword

*The Spiritual Timing of God* is a powerful look into an area of life that is often unknown or misunderstood. Ricky Hobbs shares experiences and scripture to help one to live in the true power of the Holy Spirit and to be a fruitful witness of the Lord Jesus to the world.

For years in my journey on foot around the world with the cross I have so often said I just want to be ‘on time.’

I want to be where Jesus wants me ‘now.’

I want to say what Jesus wants me to say ‘now.’

I want to be there in the will of God, led by the Holy Spirit and filled with the glory of Jesus to meet what ever is before me.

This book will help you to discover the way God can clearly lead you to be ‘on time’ in all things.

Read this book with excitement as you will get your life in time with God’s timing.

A pilgrim follower of Jesus

Arthur Blessitt

## Introduction

Oftentimes, in the streets, we find ourselves ministering to people in a divine flow that I call the “spiritual timing of God.” When we speak to them we see that their heart is already prepared to receive Christ. We have seen the timing of God make the difference between a soul that is saved or not and a life that would live or not. The subject of God’s timing is an interesting subject to me, since as a street evangelist, I see Him touch so many lives. Sometimes I stand there in the darkness of the streets as another changed life walks away, and I am amazed how God was able to have me there at the right time to speak to a heart that was searching for answers at that very moment. The circumstances are so incredible that it stirs my heart to see just how loving and caring God is to those of the streets. I know that many we meet in the streets have no earthly possessions and no one to be concerned about them. Without Christ they would have nothing; yet with Him they have everything.

### Isaiah 50

4 *“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.”*

It is my prayer that this book will bring an awareness of the timing of God to your daily life, witness, and prayer. An awareness of the Holy Spirit in our lives will cause us to be more sensitive to His will and His time. Let’s look for opportunities to flow with Him as He prepares the perfect opportunity for you to reach out and touch a life for Christ.

*Richard C. Hobbs*

## Chapter One In His Time

A word spoken at the right time will produce spiritual life to those who need Christ. I remember one night as I walked the downtown streets of Fort Smith, Arkansas and passed by a bar called Twisters. I sensed something unusual, and that was the Holy Spirit leading me to go into the bar. I was not comfortable with the thought of what He wanted me to do. However, I was so driven to follow His will that I knew I must go. I did not know what to expect on the other side of the door, but I followed what I felt and entered the bar. As I walked in, I noticed that the bar was practically empty. At first, I noticed how dark the bar was and how lonely one man looked sitting at a table. I walked over to him, introduced myself, and sat down at his table. I looked at his glass, and noticed it was still full. He just seemed to sit there, stirring his glass and staring down toward the table. I began to share with him why I was there and how the Lord led me to him. Tears began to flow from his eyes as he said, “I cannot believe that you are here. Tonight I just wanted to throw it all away. I am a preacher and I have been hurt by my church.”

I now know it was the Holy Spirit who had chosen the exact time to minister to this man. Even before he could walk away from God, I saw God was ready to forgive. He took my hand and we prayed together as he asked forgiveness for his sin and came back to Christ. He had come so close to falling away and God had mercy on his soul. What a powerful act of God’s grace and love! God was just in time to restore another life.

### Proverbs 3

6 *“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

As I have witnessed in the streets of the night, I have noticed that only a few seconds in time may make the difference between someone coming to Christ or not. I have observed the Holy Spirit convict and touch hearts on so many occasions that I have seen that spiritual timing is so important. I have seen my life spared in the streets by only a few moments in time as someone hesitated before pulling a trigger on a gun. When I return home at night from the streets, I often replay the experiences in my mind by seeing the faces and hearing the conversations we had with the people we witnessed to in the street. So often I think, “What if I had not turned down that alley, gone into the bus station, or

spoken to a stranger? What if I had not gone out to witness; would the one I prayed with still have found Christ?" So much of our life is not an accident but the timing of God. He is searching for ways and opportunities to bless His people.

## **2 Chronicles 16**

**9** *"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars."*

God is looking for someone who He can reach out and touch. He needs someone who He can use as an extension of His hand and His voice. The scriptures are so clear that God wants to minister to His people. I remember one night in the streets a man had a knife and we were just in time to see God do a work. As we stepped in the streets, we knew it was going to be a wonderful night. We had already sensed the anointing as we walked along the sidewalks. We were greeted with smiles and kindness as we talked to the people. I remember one house we visited had three men on the front porch. One was sitting with sunglasses on and bent over a beer in a paper sack, one was the father of the other two, and another had recently graduated from school and was thinking about his future. We shared Christ with them and did our best to bring the witness of Christ. However, we just were not as effective as we had hoped. This happens so often in our witness. It seems there is a delay before the conviction of the Holy Spirit is with us in the streets. Without His conviction we can do nothing. Even the drunken young man that was bent over his bottle seemed to think his life was in order.

We prayed and asked for the conviction of the Holy Spirit in the streets as we walked on. We walked about a block and saw two men walking toward us. I heard them say, "I guess that they are going to rob us too." I told them that we are Christians and not to be afraid. They said, "Leave us alone. We're too mad to talk and got to go." As they stood in reach, I placed my arms around both of them and said "Let's pray." They told me that they had been robbed and were upset. I began to pray and immediately the Holy Spirit convicted these men and they both began to cry. The presence of the Holy Spirit was so wonderful as we all

stood in the street surrounded by the love of God. We had church right in the middle of the street. I led the men through a prayer to receive Christ into their hearts. They became saved and immediately God did a work in their lives. As we stood there and shared how much God loved them, they cried and cried and began to confess what they were about to do before we met them. One man took a ten inch kitchen knife from his pants pocket and showed us the weapon which they intended to use to kill the man who had robbed them the previous night. I asked them what they were now going to do with the knife and their response was to break the knife and give it to us. All of us were so excited to see that we were in the presence of God. We went from disappointment to excitement in a matter of minutes as we saw God work with these men. If we had been a minute earlier or a minute later these men may have not found Christ and the man whom the knife was intended for could have been killed. The timing of God was so precious that we stood back and were amazed how God had arranged all of this.

## **Psalms 16**

**11** *"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*

We walked another block and saw God move again in the hearts of others. We walked to an apartment complex that we had visited many months earlier. We saw several people gathered outside and sitting on cars and in chairs. Although it was dark, we saw young men that were wearing sunglasses and seemed uninterested in what we had to say. Others were standing around watching us to see why we were there. We shared what we were doing there and handed out some WWJD bracelets and Jesus stickers. I extended my hands for prayer, the young men took my hands, and we stood in a circle and prayed for them. I do this often in the streets. Prayer creates an opportunity for lives to change. Most people believe in God and will respect what you do in the streets. Also, I sensed that they knew we cared for them. We then asked the most important question anyone will ever hear. I asked them, "If you died tonight, would you go to heaven?" Several responded that they would not. When we gave them an invitation to pray to receive Christ, they prayed with us. I noticed the chairs they were sitting on came down from two legs to four and the sunglasses came off. All prayed together to

come to Christ at the same time. Something had happened and we could see the expressions of their hearts on their faces. We talked to the young men and discovered that we had just led three sons of a pastor to Christ. It is even more interesting that we had a local pastor in the streets with us. These young men were the sons of a retired pastor who attended his church. I was amazed that with all of the people in the city, we had just ministered to three sons of a pastor. What a joy to follow the leading of the Lord!

#### **John 4**

**35** *“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”*

The Lord is waiting for us to prepare our hearts and to evangelize the world around us. Too much time has passed by already and too many people have perished without a relationship with Christ. We have a choice to participate in the harvest or not. However, God has made His choice and that is to use you to lead others to Christ. It's time to respond to His call and share your faith with others.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Obstacles to the Timing of God**

Our lives are influenced by our experiences and those around us. I have met so many people in the streets who have let the influences and situations around them determine what they became in life.

#### **Ephesians 5**

**15** *“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,”*

**16** *“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*

I remember when I was ministering many years ago in a prison at Taft, Oklahoma, I asked those in the chapel service to raise their hand if they were incarcerated because of the influence that someone else had upon their life. I was astonished when I saw every single hand go up. I went on to teach them how the world influences with evil and that we must be able to recognize the enemy of our souls and purpose to follow Christ at all costs. I remember a man who I saw sitting in a pew in the chapel service. As I watched him, I saw water dripping from the ceiling above. Every few seconds a drop would hit him on his shoulder, but he just sat there. I was amazed to see that he was not influenced by this leak, but he listened to what I had to say. As I watched him, I thought that this is what I am talking about. We are not to let circumstances, influences, or this world dictate our life but the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. God will visit our life and give us an opportunity to follow Him into eternity, however, those who choose to allow this world to set the direction of their life will miss out. The timing that God chooses to deal with our life may be the last opportunity to choose. The influences upon our life and our relationship with Christ can determine our destiny.

#### **Deuteronomy 30**

**19** *“ I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:”*

Oftentimes, we have distractions in the streets when we are witnessing. Your life, your ministry, and your witness will all be challenged by this world and the evil that has set itself up against God and

those that are His. We see this confrontation often in the streets from the evil that is present in the areas we witness. Depending on how we handle a situation determines if we stay in the timing of God.

A group of us were walking along a downtown street at night with Arthur Blessitt's son, Joshua Blessitt, and his cross. A man stood on the side of the street, yelling blasphemous things at us, and preaching against all that we stood for. Several of the youth approached him and tried to witness to him. He continued on yelling and the ears of all of those with us were hearing the lies of the enemy. As Joshua and I looked at each other, we both agreed that we were being distracted to get us out of time with what God wanted to do. We spoke to those still listening to the words of this man and said it was time to go and we walked on down the street to minister to others. We must be sure to not let the influences of the enemy direct our life or affect our steps with God. So often we see that if we were out of time with God even our footsteps would have caused us to miss an opportunity to witness to someone.

On another night, a team and I were witnessing along the streets of Los Angeles, California and we were following some ladies who appeared to have a lifestyle of lesbianism. We followed them for about a half block hoping that we could speak to them. The Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, "Who are you following?" Immediately I stopped and those with me stopped. I knew the voice of the Holy Spirit and knew we had missed His timing and we were following the wrong spirit. As we looked along the side of the street there was a family getting into a station wagon and the group ministered Christ to them. The family came back to Christ and we had followed what the Holy Spirit was wanting to do. As we ministered to those in the station wagon, the girls that we were following came back and attempted to interrupt our witness. Indeed we could quickly see that they had intended to disrupt our witness. They turned up their radio and tried further to disrupt our witness. We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be able to hear His voice and to allow Him to direct us to others. I have wondered many times how God can direct the footsteps of all of us in such a way as to be at the right place. That night it was such a wonderful feeling to know we were being directed by God. If we trust our walk with Him, He will keep us in all His ways and in His footsteps.

## **John 10**

**27** *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"*

We recognize that we are out of step with the Lord when we see that people do not stop and talk to us when we witness, when we receive many bad responses to our witness, when we sense danger, and when lives are not changed in the streets. We will stop and pray and wait a short time to continue our witness in the streets again. Commit your life to prayer and follow His leading in your life.

## **Psalms 119**

**105** *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

Our relationship with Christ and the obedience to the Word is one of the most important aspects of the timing of God. It is through our relationship that we enjoy our fellowship with Him. How can we hear from Him unless we know Him? How can we expect to be in His will and timing unless we have His influence in our life? I have noticed during times in my life that I have neglected my study in the Word, failed to spend quality time in prayer, and allowed the world to direct my thoughts and time, that I could not hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. The Lord does not force His will upon us but rather allows us to have the choice. We must purpose to follow Him at all costs, regardless of circumstances or influences. Follow Him and spend quality time with Christ in your prayers and study. The ability for us to hear His voice depends on our availability to Him.

Our walk with God and our ability to allow Him to direct our lives depends upon our belief in the Word. Throughout our life we are faced with opportunities to believe the Word for our needs. Most people try to believe for a miracle in times of tragedy or desperate times. God would have us walk in faith at all times. I have noticed that some people base their faith for answered prayer upon their own experiences rather than the Word of God. We find ourselves praying and believing for what we understand. God has so much more for us if we can only believe.

## **Hebrews 11**

**1** *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

Oh, how much we limit our lives when we limit God through belief in our experiences. The Word of God is the standard for what we believe. I have seen God do so many things that were seemingly impossible. I am glad that He does not limit himself to what we understand. The Lord has a personality and He enjoys seeing His children blessed.

### **John 16**

**23** *“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.”*

**24** *“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”*

## **Chapter Three**

### **What Time Is It?**

### **Matthew 16**

**2** *“He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.”*

**3** *“And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”*

In the verse above, unbelieving leaders came to Jesus seeking a sign from heaven. Jesus had shown many signs already in His ministry. Instead of a sign being given, He refers to their ability to discern the coming of weather by the sky and so implied they should be able to discern of His coming also. The time had come and the one they sought for stood before them and yet they did not realize it or had simply chosen not to believe.

These who have chosen not to believe are much like many people in the world today who have chosen not to follow Christ. Although they have an understanding of who He is, they reject Him in their own lives and choose to follow the course of this world that leads to eternal destruction for life's short pleasures. Without Christ in our life our destiny is already chosen and it is an eternal lifetime of torment.

While some Christians today are waiting for Jesus to come back to this earth in hopes the enemy will lose the war and the struggle Christians have will be over, I feel we have forgotten that Christ has come to this earth and was victorious over the enemy and has given authority to all that believe in Him. It is time for believers to assume their position of authority over the enemy. Christ will return again to this earth after a glorious church and not to a church that is weak and defeated. Let's assume our position of authority and boldly proclaim His Word to a lost world.

### **Mark 13**

**33** *Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

**34** *For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.*

**35** *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

**36** *Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.*

**37** *And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

I often say that on God's heavenly clock, it is two minutes until midnight. Every day and every year we are closer to the end of all time. Someday, this life as we know it will end and the clock will strike midnight. Knowing this, we should prepare our lives and help to prepare others to meet their destiny. Life as we know it is short and we need to be busy. Two-thirds of those I meet in the streets say that if they died tonight, they would go to hell. How can we ignore the opportunity to share Christ?

### **Romans 13**

**11** *“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”*

**12** *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”*

One weekend I was on my way to Los Angeles, California and I experienced a very interesting opportunity to see God's unique timing. I had a short wait in the Dallas, Texas airport and a young lady sat down beside me. There were seats open all over the airport, yet she sat down where I could speak to her. I began my witness and within minutes she was holding my hand and praying to receive Christ. As we spoke and shared where we were going, I found out that she lived two blocks from the very church in LA that ordained me and where I was to minister that weekend. How could this be that God had placed beside me someone that lived beside the church where I was to speak? I gave her a tract from the church that was in her neighborhood. She had never prayed a prayer to receive Christ but thought about it on several occasions. I was excited

and I knew that our witness would be wonderful in LA since we seemed to be witnessing to those who lived in LA already.

We were in the timing and leading of God with our witness. Although this young lady had missed two earlier flights, she was on time with what the Lord wanted to do in her life. I thank God for letting me see this miracle of His divine timing on her life. If we were to calculate the odds on us choosing that day to visit LA, her flights being canceled, where we sat in the airport, the number of people in LA, and so many other variables, we can see it would be impossible for us to know. It was indeed a miracle we had watched as God in His infinite mercy chose to deal with her this day and this time. As we closed our conversation she said, “I thought I was late but I seemed to be on time.” Indeed she was on time for Christ had prepared an opportunity for her to come to know Him. She had told us that she had thought about making a decision to receive Christ but never did. What if she had caught the earlier plane? What if I had scheduled a flight another day? Only God knows!

This young lady's story reminds me when God spoke to the prophet Samuel several times one night and finally Samuel came to know it was God all along calling him and he responded to God. This young lady knew on several occasions that she needed to get right with God and had delayed it. God was speaking to her for some time but she was not aware He was speaking. Finally, God had arranged a series of circumstances to prepare an opportunity for her to choose Christ in her life. Ironically, she recognized that the circumstances were so unusual that surely God had prepared the time to touch her heart.

There are so many interesting examples in the Bible where Christ chose a certain time to deal with someone's heart. I love the story where Christ found Zacchaeus in a tree and decided that would be the day he would come to his house. Although Zacchaeus was a sinner, Christ accepted him just as he was and brought salvation to him. Zacchaeus had placed himself in a tree to be in a position to hear from Christ. The condition of his heart and his soul had brought him to this place to hear. It was his time and Jesus said, *“for today I must abide at thy house.”*

## Luke 19

4 “And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.”

5 “And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.”

6 “And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.”

7 “And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.”

9 “And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.”

Being a street evangelist, it excites me to see the ways in which Christ ministered outside where the people were. Christ had to go through Samaria and met a lady at a well. Since Christ was a Jew it was customary for Jews to go around Samaria. However, this day it was time for Him to change a life and thereby change a city. So often we never know when we reach a life for Christ, the effect it has upon others. It is an interesting concept of time to think about how the future is often affected by one life being changed. Even my own life was changed by a minister in a small town in Texas. What would my life had been like if I had not heard the message of Christ and walked the aisle that became the walk of my life? That forty foot walk to the altar represented the walk of my life. Would the thousands that I witnessed to had been saved if I had remained lost myself or was God directing all the time?

## John 4

4 “And he must needs go through Samaria.”

5 “Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.”

6 “Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.”

7 “There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.”

8 “(For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)”

9 “Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”

10 “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”

The lady at the well received eternal life from a man that she discovered was the Messiah. Christ placed in her heart eternal life and changed her to such an extent that she had an overwhelming drive to share the message that He shared with her. She shared with those from her town and brought them to meet Christ. If our experience with God does not motivate us to share with others, then we should renew our relationship and study more of the life of Christ. It is His life in us that should move us to care for the lost and share our faith. If Christ is not dominate in our lives, then we need to examine our relationship with Him.

## Galatians 2

20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

I was in a hotel room in Ontario, California waiting until it was time to speak at a men’s retreat. I was standing there looking outside my sliding glass door and saw a young man sweeping the area around the outside garden area. I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to minister to him. I looked at my watch and I did not think I had time to speak to him. When I turned to leave the room, I felt the Lord telling me again to witness to him. Finally, I opened the door and went outside to meet him. It was one of the easiest witnesses that I had ever seen. His heart was already prepared. The young man said that recently a friend had spoken to him several times about the need to come to Christ. He had just thought about the need to come to Christ as he was sweeping in the garden. He shared with me that he was in sin and was miserable. He wanted to do what was right but did not have the strength. It was his time to come to Christ. I was so glad that I listened to God and stepped through the door to the garden to witness to him. Jesus used my witness to open another door and it was the door to his heart. How precious is the timing of God!

## Chapter Four The Eternity of Time

Our mind is not capable of understanding the eternity of time. We cannot understand how God has always existed. He had no beginning, existed always, and will never cease to exist. We cannot understand the vastness of space and its never ending boundaries. I have read several books written by many of the most intelligent scientists on earth. While I found their formulas that define space interesting, they are often disputed and ever changing. However, it seems that even these scientific minds cannot understand the beginning of time and certainly not the eternity of time. It is interesting to see scientists suggest that the universe had an architect in its design when they see its perfection and mathematical relationships. However, without a relationship with Christ, eternity and the things of God's creation will never be fully understood. In Romans 1:19 to 21, we can see that God has clearly shown himself in His creation and if we reject this evidence then we have rejected God.

### Romans 1

**19** *“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.”*

**20** *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”*

**21** *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”*

Eternity is understood by the heart and it is not formulas that define space and time but rather the person of Jesus Christ. To understand the concept of time we must have a relationship with the One who created time. All time exists in the omnipotence of Christ. In Christ's own words recorded in Revelations 1:8, He shared with us where the boundaries of time exist.

### Revelations 1

**8** *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”*

Since Christ is the beginning of all time, He existed outside of time and is not limited by its effects or limitations. We serve a God who is a Creator. Our minds and imaginations cannot understand all of God, however, we can know Him as a friend through His Son. Oh, what a God we serve! I love one of the many descriptions in the Bible where He is called the Ancient of Days. How wise is God who has existed before the beginning of time! He was there in the creation of the earth, the universe, and all that is known or yet to be discovered.

### Genesis 1

**1** *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*

The concept of time is often misunderstood especially as it relates to eternity and the omnipotence of Christ. In the scriptures below, Christ shared some interesting thoughts about time. In John 8:56 Christ said, *“Abraham rejoiced to see my day.”* This verse and others suggest that Abraham somehow could see in the future a redeemer coming to be a sacrifice for sin. Abraham understood resurrection from the dead when he was willing to offer his son on an altar when requested by God. He indicated to those he knew, as he was leaving to go up the mountain, that his son would be back. How could this be? Somehow Abraham knew God could raise him from the dead if he was to be a sacrifice. Obviously, Abraham understood that God is not limited to this physical realm. In verse 58, Christ went on to explain that He existed before Abraham. Those He spoke to could not understand how this could be and took up stones to throw at Him.

### John 8

**56** *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.”*

**57** *“Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?”*

**58** *“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”*

**59** *“Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”*

It is so important that we walk by faith and not by our understanding alone. From the vastness of space to the life of mankind upon a small planet in an enormous galaxy, we understand very little and accept so much by faith in our daily lives and never realize it. Many step into an airplane and trust the technology of the plane to carry them to their destination. We are assured that someday we will experience another dimension for our lives. We will spend eternity in heaven or a place called hell. God has made a clear choice for us concerning His will.

## **2 Peter 3**

**9** *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

One day I was at my desk and the Lord said, “Draw a line representing your life.” I said to the Lord, “I cannot make a line long enough because I believe that I will live forever in heaven.” So I took my pen and drew a line across my desk pad and drew the line that was to represent eternity. The Lord then said, “Draw a line representing your life on this earth.” I said, “Lord, I cannot draw a line small enough.” I understood what the Lord was telling me. He was saying that this life is so short and our focus must be upon eternity. We need to have such an awareness of this that it would cause us to make our decisions daily based upon eternity. I will always remember this comparison of time when He spoke about the insignificance of this earthly life in comparison to eternity. Where is your focus? With a real understanding of eternity and its permanence, how can we let people everyday die and go to hell without the knowledge of Christ? Serve Christ and look for opportunities to share your faith with others.

## **Chapter Five Walking In His Timing**

### **Isaiah 57**

**15** *“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”*

So much of our spiritual walk with God depends upon our relationship with Him. So many people struggle and work so hard to enjoy what God simply is prepared to give. In the verse above, we see that God is prepared to dwell in our heart if we are humble and repentant and when He does, He is prepared to revive us. What we desire from God comes through Him as we yield to His influence upon our lives. Can it be this simple? Yes, however, it requires us to learn to submit to His will and be led by the Spirit of God. How interesting to learn that God is the source and the means by which we can receive what we desire. We must deal with the fact that we must change.

### **John 3**

**30** *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”*

We must yield to the One who created us and the One who desires to inhabit our heart. Without a close relationship with Christ we will not be able to resist this world’s influence upon our soul. When we begin to allow God to deal with us and to change us we will have to make decisions that will ultimately determine our receptiveness to receive from God. We have a choice to allow God to have control of our life to such an extent that we recognize that we have changed. We no longer respond to situations in the same way. We begin to find strength to resist sin. We no longer seek to see only our lives blessed; but we desire to see others blessed to such an extent we are driven to help them. If our relationship with Him does not produce change and give us strength to resist sin, then we need to examine our lives and relationship in Christ.

I can remember that when God called me as an evangelist, I immediately began to experience change. The Holy Spirit began to show

me things about my life that He wanted to change. My life began to go through a series of steps for months and months. I remember on several occasions it feeling like He reached in and broke my heart and put it back. I went through over a year of challenging experiences where He was bringing much change to my life. I asked a friend of mine how long this change would last and He said that it would last for the rest of my life. I was amazed that after each time God dealt with my life I thought it was over and then God would begin to deal with another area of my life. I thank Him for having individually touched my life to such an extent that He brought me to a place to know Him and to experience His presence in my life. Allow Him to change you and to direct your life and you will find the peace and presence upon your life that you have desired. Fellowship with God through Jesus Christ will change your life.

One night I was witnessing in a park and sensed fear from the gang kids following me, but I wanted to focus my attention on the person to whom I was witnessing. I asked God to remove the fear and He asked that I give Him my life. He was talking about my physical life. That very night all fear left my heart and never returned again. I gave Him my very existence and placed full dependancy upon Him. If I live, then I live in Him and if I die, then I die in Him. I have never looked back or been afraid again and I have been able to see others in the street in a different way. I no longer judge someone by how they look or what they say. God wants us to see people as He does. He wants us to see their heart.

After we have established our walk of obedience, allowed Him to change our life, and become more consumed with God's Word, then we are prepared to listen to Him and allow Him to direct our lives to help others. How can God change others' lives through us if we cannot allow Him to change our own life? Being led by the Spirit of God requires us to continue yielding to the process of change and commitment. It's never more about us but more about Him. Following God through our journey through this world and ministering to the lives of others brings joy and satisfaction. Many times when I lie down upon my pillow at night after I have returned from the streets and have seen lives changed, I know that I had been with God!

Being led by the Spirit of God requires us to hear Him through the Word of God and in our spirit. The main question that most people ask when I talk about being led by the Spirit is, "How can I hear God?" Many say, "I want to hear from Him but I just cannot." I have found that the more time I spend in God's Word and in prayer somehow enables me to hear Him. Mostly I hear Him in my spirit and the Word of God. It is His prompting that leads me into areas where He wants me to witness and the time He chooses.

As Christians, we must be able to hear from God. The Bible is the written record of God speaking to mankind. Since the Bible contains the Words of God speaking to us, then we can listen to His voice in the Bible as we read it. We should be able to hear in the Bible what He is personally speaking to us. As we develop our ability to hear Him in His Word, we will soon find ourselves beginning to hear Him in our spirit as we go about our daily activities and quiet times in prayer. Begin to develop your ability to hear God through His Word and expect Him to speak to you and direct your life. Without an understanding of God's Word it would be difficult for God to speak to us. We must know His Word to ensure that when He speaks, it is indeed the voice of God. This simple principle is one of the most important aspects of hearing from God and being led by the timing of God.

### **Isaiah 30**

**21** *"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."*

It was a rainy night when a youth pastor and I went to the streets and our witness was unfruitful. I have shared Christ in the streets for many years now and if you are a consistent witness for Christ you will see many souls saved. However, this night was different. It seemed we were in the wrong location or wrong town with our witness. We discussed if we were really in the timing of God or not. We felt led to go to another city to witness. We drove into the drug infested areas and along the downtown area where many bars are located. As we continued to drive we went to the bus station and this seemed to be the place where the Lord

was leading us. We talked to a few people outside and they seemed to have a relationship with Christ.

I looked into the bus station and there was the person I felt that the Lord had led us to from nearly twenty miles away. We introduced ourselves and talked about her relationship with Christ. I asked her if she was a Christian. She responded that she was saved and was a YWAM student who had been on a mission trip and was just returning home. She said she does what we do in the streets and everything is fine in her life.

While she was talking to me the Lord seemed to be showing me her heart. I began to hear in my spirit what the Lord wanted me to say. What I was hearing from the Lord concerning her relationship with Christ was opposite to what she shared with us. In faith I spoke what the Lord had shared with me. I said, "I hear what you just said but the Lord has shown me something much different. You have walked away from Christ. I see that darkness has entered your heart. Something has happened to you on your trip and you have much concern over your relationship with Christ." She seemed to pull her coat up a little higher as to hide her face. She was totally aware of what she thought was a secret sin between two people. However, now standing in a bus station with two people she had never met before, what she thought was a secret seemed to be known. Her sins had found her and that God somehow had exposed the sin to make her aware of her need to ask for forgiveness. She asked if we could go outside to talk.

We stepped outside and I felt that she was about to tell us more about what happened and I told her that we did not need to know any more. Please remember this when you are witnessing that others do not need to share all of their secrets with you. I suggest that you remind others that you do not need to know. We led her back to Christ through prayer and I felt that she was indeed sorry for her sins. She seemed so relieved to know that God cared for her so much that he sent two witnesses from over twenty miles away on a rainy night to speak to her. The youth pastor began to help disciple her and to encourage accountability in her life. What an interesting witness to stand in the presence of God and to hear him speak to us and to share with this young YWAM student. I am

so glad to know that God was ready to forgive one of His own that had been trapped in sin. I would imagine the enemy had thought that he had stolen one of the Lord's witnesses. However, this was not to be because the Lord can forgive sin and set lives free. It was so moving to see how God had arranged all of this and we were in His timing to see a wounded soldier restored.

### **Psalms 51**

**9** *Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.*

**10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

**11** *Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

**12** *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

**13** *Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

I traveled to St. Louis, Missouri and was excited about the opportunity that presented itself for me to be in the streets. I waited until nearly dark and hired a taxi to drop me off in downtown St. Louis. I got out of the taxi and walked into the heart of the city. I was walking along the sidewalk and noticed it turned into a small island dividing lanes of traffic out of the city. I was walking on this sidewalk in the direction of a homeless man. He was carrying a large bag and his hair stood out in all directions. He probably had not taken a bath in months. I talked with him about Christ, and he said that he had once invited Him into his heart. Oftentimes, I will lead someone back to Christ when they are unsure of their salvation. The Lord led me in a different direction. I assured him that God loved him and showed him the scriptures in the Bible. He seemed so glad to know that God loved Him and the new found assurance that he had in his heart.

I noticed that we stood in a dangerous intersection as traffic sped by us in both directions. As I turned to get off this island, a man was screaming and running in my direction from blocks away. I watched other people turning around to see if he was coming toward them but noticed that he continued in my direction. The man nearly got in my face

as he demanded my money. I told him that I do not bring money into the streets. He asked me how I got here, and I said, "In a taxi." He said, "Then you must have money." He tried to get me to follow him into the street to show me his car that was off the street and needed to be pulled by a wrecker. He continued to press on. Then I said, "I am not afraid of those that God has called me to share Christ with." I began my witness and shared with him the message of the Cross and what Christ did for him. I read the salvation scriptures in Romans to him. He was no longer wanting money but listening to what I had to say. I now had another friend in the street of St. Louis. This man had once received Christ in his heart, and he was glad when I reassured him of his salvation. I prayed for him and we departed as friends.

I remember that I had a dream a few nights before that I was in the streets of St. Louis. In this dream I was standing on a small piece of concrete, and the enemy tried to take this ground from me. I became so angered at him that I said in my sleep, "I bind you in the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus I command you to Go." My wife woke me up and said I was speaking out loud and commanding the enemy and pointing my finger as I gave the command. I remembered as I woke up that the dream seemed so real. This dream is much like the warfare we have with the enemy. He will try to take anything we have. Ironically, I was to live the symbolism of that dream as I stood on that small piece of concrete with a man demanding my money and for me to follow him. One push and I could have been killed in the streets. Our war is not with people. It is with the enemy.

### **Ephesians 6**

*12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

I walked on further into the city. I didn't know where I was going. I just simply followed the leading of the Lord. I had been in two very dangerous situations and I was just getting started in my witness. I knew it was going to be difficult this night as I placed my drivers license in my right shoe and my credit card in my left shoe. I had no other way back to

the hotel without my credit card and no way back to Arkansas without my identification.

It was now dark as I came upon a small park in the middle of town. I saw two homeless men sitting on a park bench. I introduced myself, and we talked for a while. I asked them if I could sit down and join them this evening. I told them that I didn't want to look down to them while I was speaking. The men were glad that I had accepted them just as they were and that I understood the conditions of how they lived. I have worked thousands of hours helping the homeless and understand their needs and the problems they face.

I had my cell phone and portable equipment to broadcast live on an Internet radio station to the world. I asked the homeless men if they would like to broadcast on the radio station and tell people all over the world how to help the homeless. I explained that a friend of mine, Arthur Blessitt, has an Internet radio station that could send their message out live. They were excited about the opportunity to share their message. I knew from speaking to them and a few questions that I asked that these men did not have the assurance of salvation in Christ. I was going to lead them to Christ on the air so that others could hear a presentation of the gospel.

As I was setting up my equipment, I was so thankful for the opportunity to be able to broadcast from a park bench between two homeless men. We began our broadcast, and the men eagerly shared their feelings of being homeless and how hopeless they often felt when no one would help them. They said they hoped someone would offer them a drink of water, a bar of soap, or a meal coupon. It broke my heart as I listened to them share not their own needs but the needs of those who were in the streets due to circumstances that were often beyond people's control.

My friends were named Donald and Tony. As we were broadcasting, I watched people search through trash bins to find someone's old lunch bag. I watched as a man opened the bag and took out a half eaten hamburger and ate it. This man did not know how old the food was or who had eaten from the burger. Donald and Tony told me that many

times the homeless cannot find food for days. Next they pointed to another man going through another trash bin. They wanted me to see that homelessness is not a problem of race. We had watched a black man find food in a trash bin, and now a white man searched through the trash and found no food. He walked on into the streets in search of food.

I presented the gospel to Donald and Tony. They were excited about the opportunity to ask forgiveness for their sins and to come back to Christ. The radio could not broadcast the change in their faces but those listening could hear the change in their voices. These men were so kind to me and now I was accepted as a friend. We logged off the radio station and were pleased that many heard the message of Christ and the need to help those that find it difficult to help themselves. It is the responsibility for Christians to help those that are less fortunate.

I told the men that I would take them to dinner. They said they would not embarrass me by going in a restaurant. I said that it would not bother me. They asked if I would just order some food and bring it back to the park. I told them to wait here and that I would be back with food for them.

I walked down the street and found a restaurant. I went to the bar to order their food and sat down and drank a soft drink while I waited. A man sat down beside me. He was in a military uniform and had several medals on his uniform shirt. His name is Bryant and he is a military recruiter. God had arranged our meeting. Bryant was an evangelist from several years ago and was no longer in the streets. Somehow the Lord had convicted Bryant with my words and he was called back to the streets. I shared the location of my Web Site and he told me that he would take the course that very night. The next day I received a message from my family that Bryant emailed me and requested a certificate.

I walked back to the park and my friends were waiting for me on the same park bench. A lady had joined them on the next park bench. Her name was Phyllis and she was also homeless. I gave Donald and Tony their burger, fries, and bottled water. They wanted to share theirs with Phyllis, but I told them I would share mine with her. I cut the hamburger and gave her all but the half of the burger. I could have given all of it but

it seemed I was led to share the meal with her. She was so glad to eat that night. Donald blessed the food and we sat down and enjoyed our meal. They were so happy to have eaten that night. Donald and Tony kept half of their burger for their breakfast. They said that if someone came by hungry, they would feed them.

I led Phyllis to Christ when she finished her meal. I gave all of them Bibles, stickers, tracts, and other information. Now it was time to call the taxi to return to my hotel for the night. Although I was in the streets at night with people I had never known before, I felt so much peace and so much love that my new friends had for me. I called the taxi and left my friends. They hugged me, and we agreed to pray for each other as the Lord reminded us of our meeting.

On the way back to the hotel, the taxi driver asked me what I was doing out so late in the park. I told him that I was sharing Christ with people in the streets. He asked me if I could minister to him, and shared with me that he was tormented by bad sexual sins. I ministered to him as we drove back to the hotel. When we pulled into the driveway of the hotel, he cried and cried for over ten minutes. He was so glad to know that God still loved him and that he could be forgiven. I gave him a Bible and shared the scriptures to study. This reminded me of the time in Tulsa when a homeless man watched me minister to people all day. When I was done, he walked over to me and said, "Is it my turn now?"

There are so many people in need of Christ, and so many that have so much pain in their lives. Walking in the timing of God will result in many souls coming to Christ that may not have found Him any other way. It is my expectation that sometime in eternity we will discover just how much of our lives were touched by the leading of the Lord.

I believe that we would see more divine appointments and less suffering in this world if God's people would only place themselves in a position to allow their lives to be directed to help others in need. While we desire to follow the leading of the Lord and be in His timing, we should know that the Lord has made it very clear in His Word that we are to feed the hungry, help the homeless, visit those in prison, minister to the sick, and minister to all people. When Christ walked upon this earth He

ministered to the needs of people. He ministered with compassion and saw those that were hurting. When you place your life in a position to minister to others you will find your life being directed by the leading of the Lord and flow in His timing.

### **Matthew 25**

**42** *For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:*

**43** *I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

**44** *Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?*

**45** *Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

While we are to expect the Lord to direct our lives with His timing we must first allow the Word of God to direct our lives. The Word of God contains the voice of God and thereby His leading in our lives. Let the Word of God touch your life to the extent that you will have an overwhelming desire to help those that are in need and without hope. As you follow the Lord and establish a pattern of helping others you will find your life led by the Holy Spirit and walking in the timing of God. Enjoy your journey with the Lord as He leads you to others in need and as you find the Lord welcoming you into His kingdom at the end of this life's journey.

*It is my prayer that this book will bring an awareness of the timing of God in our daily walk and ministry. Throughout the Bible there are examples that God has chosen a specific time to minister to His people. So much of our daily lives seemed to be dependent upon time. It seems that time is often an enemy when it ages our bodies and fatigues us. However, time can be a friend when it is ordered by the Lord. He yearns so much to visit His people at the appointed time of His choosing. Prepare yourself to hear Him and to visit you and most importantly to lead you to help someone else when He chooses. Jesus's ministry was always driven by need and He was never too late. When the world thought He was late to visit Lazarus upon his death they discovered that the One who is the Alpha and Omega was able to surpass time and death to bring Lazarus back from the dead. It is in His time that everything exists.*

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As a street evangelist, I have a unique opportunity to see the timing of God in the lives of those to whom we witness. We need to be in expectation for God to visit our lives in times of need and other times to visit as our closest friend. This book includes stories of special encounters in the street where the timing of God was experienced as the lost and hurting were ministered to. Understanding God's timing in our life will prepare us to be in expectation for His personal touch upon our lives.

*Richard C. Hobbs*



"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

**Mark 13:33**



Richard C. Hobbs is a street evangelist who is called to train and equip witnesses for Christ. His calling has taken him to some of the worst neighborhoods in America to minister to the people of the streets.