

Synchronicity

Recently, I read an interesting fictional book entitled Splinter Cell – Checkmate. The Tom Clancy book plot featured a one-person effort to stop a cargo freighter from crashing into the California shoreline. The ship was loaded with radioactive material from the Chornobyl nuclear disaster site and would cause millions of casualties if it crashed on US soil. The main character, Sam Fisher, jets all around the globe in search of the answers needed to determine who sent the ship and to stop the assault. In the non-stop thriller, the US is under attack at several different locations, all at the same time. The book uses the term “synchronicity” to depict multiple attacks throughout the United States. The dictionary defines synchronicity as “simultaneous events which appear to be significantly related but have no discernible connection.” As I read the book, I concluded that some of the attacks were intended to be a distraction from the catastrophic event in the path of the cargo freighter. Sam Fisher was like Superman, trying to be in several places simultaneously as he sought the truth. The book describes the dilemma of the fictional US President, who has to verify what country is responsible. A retaliatory strike against the wrong country could start a war that would be even more disastrous. It would be easy to speculate what country may have set these attacks in motion, but the President had to be sure. We live in a fragile peace.



I won't spoil the ending by going further into the plot, but it does highlight a faith lesson for us today. We tend to think in linear terms, not connecting the dots of how God works on multiple fronts simultaneously. God connects the dots of what we see as a random event. God is creating a masterpiece that weaves together the hearts and actions of many people for His desired purpose. We are unaware that God has put together a comprehensive plot involving multiple moving pieces that will come together at the time God prescribed. Our linear mind only sees the result, which we call a miracle. God orchestrated the result by bringing together what He had been preparing for a long time. *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).*

The pieces of the puzzle may have been the result of an influential teacher inspiring a low-performing student to excel in the classroom, leading to success later in life. The lost child may have been inspired by someone to “see the light,” come to faith, and go into action to help someone else. The missionary today may have been an orphan in their youth, yet they change the lives of an entire village. Today's drug counselor may have been yesterday's addict.

Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung coined the concept of synchronicity, saying that it is an “ever-present reality for those who have eyes to see.” Do you have eyes to see that God is at work, pulling the strings for a plan to unfold? We don't realize what God has done for us until after the fact. Even in difficult situations, God can find good. *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28).*

What have you learned or experienced in your past that can help someone else today? How can you get together people from all walks of life to help address a significant community problem? Perhaps God allowed you to go through something in your past that can save a life today. When God brings you through a situation He is preparing you for a future act of service for His Kingdom. It is anything but random. You are one piece of the puzzle that is part of God's bigger picture. Let God be at work through you.

Prayer: Dear God. We don't know how it all fits together, but use me to help accomplish your purposes for other people. Amen.