

Defining Moments
“God’s Love Changes Everything!”
Selected Scriptures

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven...

—Ecclesiastes 3:1

1. What is a defining moment?

A defining moment is a point in your life when you’re urged to make a **pivotal decision**, or when you experience something that fundamentally changes you. Not only do these moments define us, but they **transform** our thoughts and actions. These are the types of moments that force you to ask “why,” they can challenge what you currently believe, and they can **force you** into a new direction entirely.

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

—1 Samuel 16:7

God is looking directly at **the heart** of this congregation.

2. What is the purpose of defining moments? (Why does God “engineer” them?)

Every single moment **originates from** the absolutely pure love that He has for each and every one of you.

The purpose is to **bring you closer** to Him, to make you more like Himself.

“We are apt to think that everything that happens to us is to be turned into useful teaching; it is to be turned into something better than teaching, it is to be turned into character. We shall find that the spheres God brings us into are not meant to teach us something but to make us something.”

—Oswald Chambers

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

—Isaiah 55:8–9

We’re here because the defining moments in this church have changed us, blessed us, grown us, and **affected many** around us.

Yes, in your own defining moments God was making you more like Himself, but in doing so, the impact **poured out onto others**.

3. So maybe you're asking the questions, "When? Where?"

The answer to the question of when is **right now**.

My days are like a lengthened shadow, And I wither away like grass. But You, O LORD, abide forever, And Your name to all generations.

— Psalm 102:11–12

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven...

— Ecclesiastes 3:1

Every day is important because it's **one more opportunity** for God to demonstrate His love.

"It's not the days in your life, it's the life in your days that count."

— Adlai Stevenson

The answer to question of where is **right here**.

God will use us exactly where's He's **placed us**.

4. What are WE going to do with them? What are YOU going to do with them?

We can stay aware. Let's always be mindful of what's at stake here.

"We are not sent to battle for God, but to be used by God in His battlings."

—Oswald Chambers

We can seek God, because seeking Him is critical. Seeking Him constantly will keep us flexible, it will keep us moving, and it keeps us in His Will.

We can adapt. We don't have to be locked in to anything. We can look at what God's doing, the defining moments He's bringing our way and be ready to change when He does.

We can never ever forget, that **each one of us has a role**. You are an important part of this. It's about each and every one of us responding to the calling of God in our hearts.

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

—Romans 12:4–5

We are all in this together.

for He says, “AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU.” Behold, now is “THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,” behold, now is “THE DAY OF SALVATION”
—2 Corinthians 6:2

This is a defining moment. The moment you will see that God’s love changes everything!