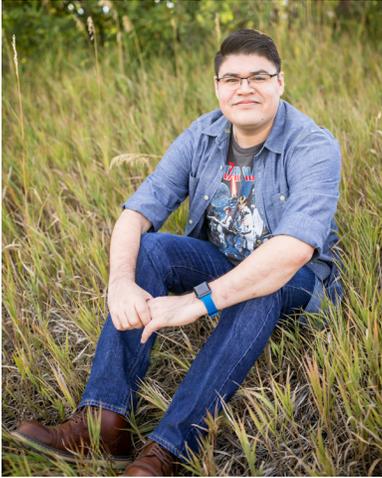


Perfect Timing

Galatians 4:4



DAY SEVEN



Aaron Galvan

Hi, my name is Aaron Galvan. I've been a member of BCF church for the last 17 years. My wife, Leslie, and I serve as leaders in Celebrate Recovery.



When the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. - Galatians 4:4 (Contemporary English Version)

My favorite Christmas movie has to be White Christmas. I love the songs, dancing, music, and jokes. White Christmas is a classic Christmas movie; and every year, no matter how many times I've seen it, I cry when the soldiers rise from their seats to honor their former commanding general. Every time.

In the movie, General Waverly retired from the military, and purchased an inn on the slopes of Vermont. Unfortunately, the long-awaited snow has yet to fall, stalling the winter resort traffic needed to support the inn. When all hope seems lost, Bob Wallace (played by Bing Crosby) goes on national television to invite the men who served under General Waverly to bring their families to the Vermont inn; and they answer the call.

Christmas movies almost always have happy endings: the boy gets the girl, the kid gets that one special gift, the family doesn't lose their home, and the inn doesn't have to be sold. Christmas reality, however, can often leave us disappointed.

"This Christmas, we need to sing Christmas carols. We need grandma's hot chocolate, and we absolutely must read through the Christmas Story. Christmas will be ruined if we don't have these things!"

This way of thinking says we need our friends and family to fit into what we expect from a perfect Christmas. What began as a happy tradition, becomes a rule by which all Christmases are measured. When we do this, we turn the holiday into a competition between one year and the next, and we lose sight of what's most important.

Unfortunately, our expectations don't always stop with our friends and family. So many times, we can be guilty of forcing our expectations on God. We expect Him to bring that blessing when we want Him to, and to answer our prayers the way we think they should be answered. God doesn't work that way.

"*When the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him.*" (Galatians 4:4, CEV) The Jewish people had been waiting for hundreds of years for this Christmas Miracle, and the answer finally came the night Jesus was born. God's timing was perfect. God's plan was perfect.

In the chaos of our daily lives, it's easy to forget that God already has a plan for us, and all He asks is for us to lay down our expectations and trust in Him and His perfect timing.

1. What is that one thing that *must* happen this Christmas season?
2. Will Christ be honored even if it doesn't happen?