

## The Divine Language of Coincidence: How Miracles Transformed My Life after I Began Paying Attention

**Sophia Demas**

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*The Divine Language of Coincidence is an inspiring spiritual memoir about a happy life lived in intentional proximity to God.*

In her memoir, *The Divine Language of Coincidence*, Sophia Demas finds happiness as she acts on gratitude.

In college, a dream about a wedding and a funeral changed Demas's course of study to architecture. She interned in Italy and later worked for a famous architect in Philadelphia, continually thanking God for her good fortune—to which, in addition to her budding career, she attributed her health recoveries, and the luck of finding cash just when she needed it.

Demas also started a couture business and met her future husband. On their honeymoon, they had the luck of not staying at a resort that was wrecked by a hurricane; this was also treated as “a confirmation that an omniscient force of love had better answers than mine, that obstacles were blessings, and that struggles were not to be seen as enemies, but as teachers.” Later, Demas became a therapist and helped women prisoners heal; and after a trip to the Middle East, she researched religious conflicts to deepen her commitment to peace.

As such stories are shared, the book's focus is revealed: it is intent on finding miracles at work in Demas's life, with the idea that their examples will help others see God's activity in their lives, too. It expresses curiosity about how the miracles it names square with the rules of nature, and includes comparisons of quantum physics findings with teachings from yogis about meditation and compassion, suggesting overlaps. Its inquisitive tone is inviting.

Using Demas's story as template for others to emulate, the book suggests steps to building a relationship with God. Its methods include a prayer of thanks, requests for support from friends, and decisions to take action that reflect one's gratitude, including gestures like impulse phone calls; in Demas's life, these are shown leading to new opportunities for thanks. Happened-upon books are also credited with Demas's fortune, including a *A Course in Miracles*; the book's engagement with other spiritual texts is compelling. All of this work is used to suggest that attaining closeness with God is a process, that it can be practiced, and that it is rewarding. Still, the work is at its most inviting when it is detailing Demas's own experiences, where her descriptions of other cultures, foods, and environments are a delight.

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MARI CARLSON (February 22, 2021)

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