Unexpected Return on Investment

I had a situation come up recently that was going to require some focused, sustained prayer — the kind I am not terribly good at. I am more of a SWAT team guy. I can roll out on a crisis in seconds and be quite dangerous, but the artillery kind of intercession where you bombard one target for months — well, that is a stretch.

But it was mine to do, so I assessed my resources to figure out how I could actually carry it out and not just immerse myself in guilt over lack of execution. I decided to dedicate my drive time, morning and evening to thumping on this issue.

So I did. I found that I maintained about a 90% active engagement rate. It was easier in the mornings than the evenings, but all told, this sprinter turned in a decent performance at the marathon.

Then I got surprised. Twice in one week, there was very little grace for prayer on the drive home. I managed to get out a paragraph or two, but then I was off in the vegetative mode which is what I used to do on the way home. I was disappointed that I had not been able to lean into the topic more heavily.

But near the end of each drive, I had a huge revelation from the Lord of the next step in a totally unrelated problem I had been chewing on for weeks. It was amazing both times and it came “out of the blue.”

Now I am a firm believer in principles, and another word for a principle is cause and effect relationship. When you see a ball of some sort flying through the air, that is an effect. Behind the effect is either a foot, or hand, or head.

So for me to get revelation once, at the corner of Harbor and La Palma is just trivia. For it to happen repeatedly on that stretch, is an effect. I went looking for the cause.

By process of elimination, it had to be the land. While I was doing my intercession for a person every day, I had accidentally, incidentally cleaned up the land somewhat. And apparently that patch has a bit of anointing on it, and as soon as I put a dent in the toxic waste, the treasure in the land manifested as revelation.

This is the joy of experiencing God working through you when you are being obedient.
Often He has an agenda much more variegated than the simple one put before you.

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From home