



# Seasons In Time

ENCOUNTERING GOD FACE TO FACE...  
IN OUR BRIEF JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

## *Life Season IV – My Middle Age Years and God (Continued)*

### **Can't Go to Church... Too Busy!**

**I**'m a single mom working two jobs! Sure, I know I'm supposed to be in church on Sundays, but there's just no time for that. I can barely drag myself out of bed in the mornings. In the evenings I don't even have time to help my kids with their homework. Sundays are my ONLY day off. Isn't that supposed to be a "Day of Rest?" *Well, I refuse to be put on a guilt trip. I'll just worship God in my own way!*

**I** travel for a living and I'm only home with my wife and kids on Sundays. I'm away from them all week long and this is my ONLY family time. Sure, it would be a good thing to go to church together, but I'm too busy and too worn out! For me, going to church is just one more commitment I don't have time for. *I'm sure God understands my dilemma and He's pleased that I make "family" a priority.*

**N**ot only am I too busy to go to church, but I can't afford it! My wife is a stay-at-home Mom and I'm the only breadwinner. With four kids and two in diapers, we can hardly pay our bills. I tried going to church, but I'm always on a guilt trip when they pass the offering plate. *The preacher presses people to give "Tithes." That's 10% of my income! I just can't afford to give away that much money!*



*So, why go to church? Without FAITH, it's impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Your next question should be: "How do I get faith?" God's answer is: "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." (Rom. 10:17NIV). And where can you go to hear the message of Christ? The obvious answer is: "CHURCH!" The Bible warns us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:23-26). That's because we'll slowly drift away from our faith and God! So, reevaluate and adjust your lives. *Attending church isn't a Religious Obligation...it's where God meets with you and causes your faith to grow!**

*Also remember, God isn't after your money...He's after your heart!* If you're not careful, you'll get tightfisted with God...the only One who saves your soul, supplies your needs and gives you real solutions for life. And besides that, 10% of all your income isn't yours anyway. It belongs to God! (Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:8; Luke 11:42). *So, let's see what happened when God touched these people during their stressed-out seasons.*

**B**eing a single Mom is suffocating! Since Sundays are my only day off, I needed some "free" time just for myself...and my boyfriend! But what I didn't count on was getting pregnant again! Of course, he disappeared when I told him. I finally realized I had totally left God out of my life. My kids were shocked when I told them we were going to church next Sunday. The message was from Gen. 21 how God's compassion miraculously provided for Hagar and her son. *As I quietly wept, I knew this was a promise from God for ME!*

**T**raveling men can be clueless! I never realized how difficult it is for my wife to have full responsibility for raising our children. My whole world crashed when she announced she and the kids were leaving! In desperation, I met with the pastor of a nearby church. "Your priorities have to change," he explained. "If God isn't first in your life, you'll shut Him out of your family." *After he prayed for me, I knew what I had to do. With God's help, I'll change my priorities and my job. I'll become the man He intends me to be.*

**I** can't justify giving my church 10% of my income. I need every penny." That's how I began complaining to my co-worker during lunch. "Yeah," he agreed, "That's how I used to think." Then he shared his story. "It's not giving 10% away; it's returning God's portion back to Him. Refusing to tithe was robbing God and forfeiting my blessings (Mal. 3:8-11)! Everything I have comes from Him. So why shouldn't I honor God first?" *I was speechless! Then my heart softened. "I never saw it like that before. I need to rethink some things."*

**Next: Stories from My Later Years - Am I Obsolete? Reinventing Myself**

