



Seasons In Time

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

Life Season II – My World As a Teenager (Continued)

When Dad Became My Hero

I couldn't believe what I heard when my best friend told me the staggering news. We were best buddies through high school and I had spent weekends with his family...even camping trips with his dad. He said he had to talk with me, so we drove to the local bistro for coffee. "My dad," he began saying...then he stopped and stared at the floor. He looked up and blurted out, "My dad said he wants to become a woman!" My jaw dropped to the floor. I had heard of this on TV, but never about someone that I knew so well! Through his tears he struggled to speak, "Dad was my hero...but I don't know what he is now! Mom took it so hard she filed for divorce. But others told me to honor my dad for his courage to be who he really is. The psychologist told us to support my dad as he goes through the changes. What am I going to do?!"

At eighteen, I had it all figured out! I was a full-grown woman with a mind of my own. My dad, though I knew he loved me and mom, was totally out of touch with the modern world. Sure, he was successful in business, but he was clueless concerning today's younger generation. As much as I loved him, he was a dinosaur when it came to dating, morals and planning MY future. *So I rejected the idea of college, left home and lived with my boyfriend until he could get his big break in the music industry.* I could see the hurt in mother and dad's eyes, but this was MY life and I would live it the way I wanted. I'd show them that I didn't need their old-fashioned advice. I'll make something of myself. I'll even help them out financially when they get really old!



When God created men and women, He made them in His image and likeness. That means they had the ability to properly represent His righteous character on earth. Yet, God gave them freedom to follow His kind intentions or reject Him and go their own way. Tragically, when Adam and Eve chose their own way, their sin changed all future generations. *People no longer had the ability not to sin.* Some men corrupted their "masculine" image of God by becoming domineering and abusive. Others abandoned their families forcing them to fend for themselves. Some men even exchanged their natural desires with women for degrading lusts for other men (*Rom. 1:25-32; Lev. 18:22-28*). *All these perversions (including gender confusion) are awful results of the fallen nature that never ceases to stalk people.* But through our faith in Christ's redemptive grace, we can be washed, sanctified and justified so as to renounce sin and live righteous lives (*1 Cor. 6:9-11*). *Redeemed men are restored to be heroes to their families the way God intended.* So, what happened to these teenagers? Read how God opened their hearts to Him.

When I heard my friend's story, I knew what I had to do: take him to my father, who was a pastor in our city. I had never seen such compassion and love in my dad's eyes before. After breathing in deeply, dad began speaking. "I'm so sorry this has happened in your family. God knows the hurt in your heart. He also knows the struggle in your father's soul...and He loves him more than you can imagine. *Love your dad and continue to pray for him. However, you have to rethink who your "heroes" and role models are. Parents can let you down, but Jesus never will. Follow Him and let His word guide you. He will give you wisdom during these difficult days.*" Then Dad prayed for my friend and his family. *That was the day my Dad not only became my hero, but opened my heart to The Hero of all heroes...Jesus!*

A year had passed since I left home. *My boyfriend left me. The restaurant where I worked fired me. And I was pregnant.* All I could think of was the hurt in my parent's faces and the fool I had been. As I stood at their door, I cried like a child. When Daddy opened the door, he began weeping as he took me in his arms. Mother didn't say a word. She just cried uncontrollably. "We knew you would come home," he whispered through his tears. "We've been praying for you ever since you left." They never scolded me...they just loved me. *That's when I finally "figured it all out." Dad is my hero. He always was and always will be...forever!*

Next: More Stories from My Teen Years - *Mother Was My Life-Compass*

