



Seasons In Time

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

Life Season II – My World As a Teenager

The Dance of Identity

What's happening to me?" I muttered as I looked intently at the reflection staring back at me. It looked like a teenage boy in the mirror, but to me, I was a girl trapped in a boy's body! Then when I felt "feelings" for boys instead of girls, I knew I was different. Some call this "abnormal" and "sick." Others, including prominent politicians, say that prejudice against gays is a civil rights violation. Some churches condemn it as sin while others say it's just the way God made people. Some of my friends at high school stopped struggling with their dilemma and decided that the gay lifestyle was just "meant to be" for them. Even if I could, I would never have talked with my father about the feelings that haunted me. He left my mother when I was born. *I became so confused, angry and belligerent that I let myself go with reckless abandon. For the next 10 years, I threw myself into the gay world with unbridled passion! In my circle of gay friends, I could accentuate my effeminate mannerisms and clichés with total acceptance.*

The bonfire exploded into the evening sky as the drum corps ignited our spirits for the upcoming game. Students were ecstatic as cute cheerleaders danced around the fire and macho football players charged onto the scene like victorious gladiators. I was 18 and this was my first homecoming pep rally at the state university. I was memorized! Hero worship was in the air! *"Oh, if only I was a popular athlete, the world would bow at my feet and girls would swoon when I showed up!"* But that was never to be. *I was skinny, pimple-faced, awkward and a bit clumsy. Why wasn't I like the "cool" kids? I didn't want to be me. I yearned to be like them! I wasn't sure who I really was, but I just wanted to be someone else!*



*In the beginning God created Adam and Eve with identity, purpose and divine destiny. There were no gender or identity confusions. But tragically everything changed. When they bought into Satan's lie, they became self-deceived. Since then, all people are ruled by sin and deception (Rom. 5:12; 2 Tim. 3:13). But God offers to all people the only solution for the ravages of sin. **If any person repents (changes their heart), seeks forgiveness and trusts the redemptive grace of the Savior, they will be cleansed and restored back to God (1 John 1:9).** Read what happened to these teenagers when they encountered God in their lives.*

When one by one they died. One friend overdosed. Another lost his life to AIDS. And my lover was shot and killed in a jealous argument over me. I was also shot and left for dead. When the police broke down the door, I was barely alive. During those agonizing minutes before help arrived, I began to reconsider my life. Maybe, just maybe, my rebellion and wrong friends threw me over the edge. As I felt life slipping away, I whispered a prayer I never thought possible. *"Lord, forgive me for the way I've lived. I know this isn't Your best for me. Please, don't let me die in this lifestyle!"* Was it easy to escape from homosexuality? Absolutely not! *But years later with a new set of friends, a loving church family and the delivering power of Christ, I married a lovely woman and have two precious children. Because of Jesus, my Dance of Identity culminated in God's love.*

Sometimes encounters with God aren't dramatic moments at all. *His visitations can be progressive providential events leading to an ultimate identity in Him.* I didn't know God was at work until later as I looked back across my life. Dad, who was my true hero, saw my self-image struggle. As a professional pilot, he had trained hundreds to fly airplanes. When he asked if I wanted to learn to fly, I jumped at the chance. With his training, I not only became a pilot, I learned to teach others to fly as well. As the years passed, I grew up and became a confident man. In college I studied to be an engineer and discovered that I was analytical. Then in my 30s, the Lord gloriously called me into Christian ministry. *During the next 50 years I used my teaching and analytical skills to train hundreds in God's word...helping them to discover their Identity and Destiny in Christ!*

Next: More Stories of My Teenage Years - Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places!

