



Seasons In Time

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

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

Finding Love Again

She was wild, impetuous and free spirited. But that's what attracted me to her. I used to call her my little "spitfire." We had a whirlwind and exotic romance that lasted less than two months when I popped the question. "Sure," she shouted when I asked her to marry me. "We only live once! So let's make it a crazy adventure!" And that's exactly what it was...crazy! I was much older than her, but that didn't matter. She brought me alive. But she also brought me "death" when she ran off for a younger guy after only a year of marriage. I know it was my fault. I knew all the warning signs, but I ignored them. *I was 40 and, as crazy as it sounds, she was my first love. But she will be my last! There's no way I will ever love again!*

Never will I be able to erase that terrible moment from my mind. My breath left me as I watched two military officers solemnly walk from their car to my front door. All I can remember when they began speaking was sinking to my knees and crying uncontrollably. All military wives live with the dread of this nightmare in their hearts, but this time it was for real and happening to me. My wonderful, kind and loving husband, the father of our three children, had been killed in action in the Middle East! He only joined the armed forces because of the education they promised he would receive. He wasn't the "warrior" type...but he died a warrior's death. *I had lost the love of my life. He was gone forever. All I had left were pictures, memories and the flag I received at his funeral. I knew I would never marry again.*



The Bible doesn't speak directly to finding love again after a failed marriage. But we can discover scriptural principles that give us guidelines. First, don't let anyone put you on a "Religious Guilt Trip" about remarriage. It's true; God intended marriage to be the righteous union between a man and a woman faithfully committed to one another for all their lives. It's the hardness of hearts that causes divorce (*Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 19:3-9*). These passages are meant to prevent people from treacherously or even flippantly divorcing for slightest reasons. (*God is dealing with hypocritical minds that justify divorce while claiming to be righteous by their own works.*) **However, Jesus came to rescue all people from sin...including DIVORCE!** He restores all who seek forgiveness with genuine repentance. Rom. 7:2-3 addresses remarriage after a death. *Regardless of first or second marriages, the character a person should look for in another is found in Prov. 31:10-31 and Eph. 5:25-33.*

After the "Wild Thing" fiasco shattered my life, I resolved to remain single forever. I found a great church and joined a fellowship group that brought Christians together to study God's word, laugh, eat great food, and take group trips. It was in that casual non-threatening environment that I met a kind and gentle lady. She was about my age and had been widowed for 15 years. Was it love at first sight? NO WAY! I've been there and got the scars. After about a year, we realized that our friendship was genuine. Then one Sunday, the pastor brought a message of God's providence that brings lives together for a greater cause. That's when we both knew what the Lord was doing. *Is it possible to find love later in life? With God, ALL things are possible!*

Even after 5 years, the grief over my husband's death was unbearable. In desperation, I signed up for grief recovery classes through my church. It was led by a licensed counselor who walked us through the recovery process from "Destructive Grief." During the classes we all developed deep and meaningful friendships. A year later I began to regain "normal" emotions again. I even ventured out by myself to have lunch while the children were in school. That's when I ran into a gentleman from my class. We had coffee together and talked for hours. I wasn't interested in a "relationship," but our friendship grew deeper through time. I met his children and our families enjoyed fall festivals together. By the spring of the next year, I began to sense it was the Lord working in us. *In His gracious and gentle way, He was teaching us both to find love again.*

Next: More Stories from My Middle Age Years - Parenting My Parents, Until...

