



# Seasons In Time

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

## Life Season III – My Young Adult Life and God

### I'm Free At Last! But Freedom Is Treacherous!

**N**o more parents telling me what to do! I was 24, a college graduate and I was FREE to live MY life the way I wanted. I had a high-paying career and was finally free from my parents' control. I always wanted a Ferrari...so I bought one! A house in the suburbs seemed boring...so I leased a condo in the financial district of the city! As a young professional, I couldn't wear department store suits or shoes...so I bought a full Armani wardrobe! With plenty of money, I didn't bother balancing my checkbook. I was Free! I was living in the fast lane and running with the "high rollers"...until it all came crashing down! With my credit card maxed out, I was getting daily calls and threatening notices from bill collectors. My folly culminated with a repo truck hauling away my Ferrari! *Oh I was "Free" alright. Free to fall headlong into bankruptcy and total financial ruin!*

**H**appy Hour couldn't get here fast enough for me. As a young professional woman, I loved my freedom. Having been raised in a strict Christian home, I was ready for anything except rules and lectures that kept me from fun and experiencing life to its fullest. My parents always warned me about the kind of guys I shouldn't date. But now that I was FREE from their control, I gravitated to the "bad boys" who hung around the sports bars during Happy Hour. They were the ones who introduced me to recreational drugs and the fast life. Soon my productivity at work dropped off. *After three warnings I lost my job. My freedom had turned into slavery. Addicted to alcohol, drugs and men, I decided to just overdose and end it all!*



*Freedom, without accountability and God's guidance, will cost you everything you have!* Being free to live apart from God and any way you please is treacherous! Look at what happens with that kind of freedom:

1. **You'll Drift Into Dangerous Waters.** Without God's governing compass, you're lost! Without guidance for your soul from godly leaders, you'll become prey for every predator (*Jer. 50:6-7; Ezek. 34:8*).
2. **You'll Shipwreck Your Faith.** To justify sinful actions, you'll adopt false ideas that condone unbiblical ways of life. Freedom to tamper with God's word will sink your faith (*1 Tim. 1:18-20*!).
3. **You'll End Up in the Wrong Place.** A deceptive compass is more dangerous than any storm at sea. It'll convince you that evil is good and darkness is light (*Is. 5:20-21*). Self-governance in God means having the courage to say "Yes" to the right things and "No" to the wrong ones (*Eph. 4:22-24*).

*Failure is the best remedy for ignorance! Read what happened to these two young adults when they met God:*

**I** suppose I got too much too soon with too little wisdom. With my whole life in shambles (financially, emotionally and spiritually), I came to the conclusion that Freedom without God is Failure. So, I began attending church again. In my worldly prosperity, I had become spiritually poor. I enrolled in "Crown Financial Ministries" that was offered at my church. That's where God met me...right at the point of my failure and my need. Matt. 16:26 became my guiding scripture: *"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"* Instead of bankruptcy, I drastically changed my financial behavior. *Ten years later I'm out of debt, consistently tithing and volunteering in "Crown." Finally, I discovered what True Freedom really is!*

**A**s I sat in a dark room blankly staring at prescription drugs and alcohol on the table, I considered what death would be like. I would be FREE from my failures and the emotional pain in my head. But when I reached toward the table, my mind flashed to my life as a child. Sure, the boundaries my parents placed on me were strict...but they were trying to keep me from doing what I was about to do now. Maybe it was my imagination, but out of nowhere a bright light shone into the darkness of my soul. I just hung my head and cried. Somehow I gained the strength to drive to my parent's home. *I'll never forget the love in their eyes. They just wrapped their arms around me and said, "Welcome Back Home! You're FREE to stay as long as you want."*

**Next: More Stories from My Young Adult Life - Finding My Rudder...and Myself!**

