



# Seasons In Time

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

## Life Season V – My Later Years and God

### Losing the Love of My Life...How Can I Go On?

**A**s I stood beside my husband's casket, I felt like my whole existence had died with him. I stared at what used to be and cried uncontrollably. I cried for him; I cried for my children and grandchildren; but most of all I cried for myself. Every fiber of my life had been wrapped up in this man that I had married 55 years ago...and now he was gone. Gone were the joys, smiles and laughter. Gone was the passion we once shared. Gone was the adventure of life as we discovered new places to visit and new experiences to share. And gone was my future. *All I had left was to live my life in pain, loneliness and emptiness. I was angry with him for leaving me and I was bitter at God for taking him from me. I was all alone for the rest of my life!*

**I**'ve dreaded this moment for the last 10 years. We all knew her health was declining, but we denied the obvious signs. Though we prayed to the Lord for the impossible, hoped for His sustaining grace and declared our belief that God would grant to her total healing from sickness, it was not to be. When the doctors told us she only had a few hours left, the family gathered to say our goodbyes. And then she was gone. My heart sank and I didn't know how I could live with the pain. *Yet, deep inside of me, I sensed the Lord awakening me to press on. As much as I didn't want to, I knew that I must!*



*Death was never God's intention for humanity. It's the direct result of deception and rebellion in the Garden of Eden. God's command was, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*—Gen. 2:16-17. Ever since that awful day, death has stalked every person who has ever lived. Death is a constant reminder of the penalty of sin upon all humankind. But those who have placed their trust in the redemptive work of Jesus have **Eternal Life**. Because of faith in Christ, though we die physically, we will live again (*John 6:40; 11:25-26*). Therefore, our hope is not in this life alone, but in God's grace that gives us life beyond the grave (*1 Cor. 15:19-22*). Not only that, God draws close to us (*Ps. 34:18*), loves us, comforts us in our grief, and stirs our hearts with purpose beyond the life of our loved ones. God calls us to comfort others as He has comforted us (*2 Cor. 1:3-4*). He gives us strength to continue our lives and ministries with a new sense of dedication to His cause...**IF** we focus on Him and not just ourselves. *Tragically, one person in these two stories never recovered from sorrow. The other did. Because he was open to God's grace, he was strengthened to serve the Lord, others and his family even beyond his grief.*

**S**ure, I was a Christian, but when my husband died, I had nothing to live for...except to die and join him one day in heaven. For me, it couldn't happen soon enough. I stopped attending church. I rejected the foolish attempts of my friends to make me feel better with cards, phone calls and emails. Every day I would lose myself in old pictures and letters from my husband. I pushed my children and grandchildren away from me because they had no idea what I was going through. Happiness forever left me when the love of my life died. *I DECIDED I would just live in pain and grief until the day I would die and hopefully meet him in heaven.*

**B**ut something strange and unexpected happened at the moment my wife departed this life. *In the midst of our tears, the Presence of God entered the hospital room.* No, we didn't see angels or a visual appearance of Jesus, but we sensed His grace, compassion and love. It was so strong that we all began to sing of His redemptive grace that will never leave us to suffer alone. *We had no controversy with God;* for He had not "taken" her away...He graciously received her in Heaven when her body could no longer sustain life. *That was when I DECIDED to Live...to live for Christ, for others and for my family! I will miss my beloved wife of 50 years and will never "get over" losing her. But through Christ's strength, I will go on!*

Next: More Stories from My Teen Years - *Gangs and Terrorists...My New Family!*

