



Seasons In Time

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

Life Season V – My Later Years and God (Continued)

Learning to Stop Parenting My Adult Children

As I read, I envisioned a valiant archer prepared for war. In his left hand he gripped a strong bow...so powerful that only a mighty warrior could draw it back. With his right hand he firmly positioned an arrow on the bow. The arrow had been well crafted...straight and true. Skillfully placed feathers were attached at the base for proper guidance and stability to reach its mark. At the tip was a carefully weighted arrowhead giving balance. Its shape had been hewed and hardened to inflict maximum injury to the enemy. As I continued reading Psalm 127:3-5, I saw the archer draw his bow with great strength, raise it to the proper trajectory, aim toward the battlefield and RELEASE it to find its mark. *As I contemplated what I had read, the Lord gave me understanding. I was that archer and my children were those arrows.*



Certainly, children are infinitely more precious than inanimate arrows of war. Children belong to the Lord. He deeply loves and protects them (*Matt 18:1-10*). They are God's gift and blessing to parents (*Ps. 127:3-5*). They have our physical likeness, but they also bear the imprint of God. Like arrows made straight, we demonstrated Uprightness and Righteousness for them to follow. Like the feathers that guide, we gave them Wisdom to bring stability. Like the arrowhead, we equipped them for Spiritual Warfare. *Finally, with confidence in Proverbs 22:6 and great parental Love, we pointed them in the right direction and Released them to Their Destinies...NOT ours!*

I have seen the tragic result of parents who haven't prepared their children to be adults and who don't know when to stop parenting. They forget that in marriage, there is a shift of loyalty (*Gen. 2:24*). *No one, especially adult children, will listen to Unsolicited Counsel! They will reject both it and us!* So, when our own children were ready to leave home and be released to their destinies, I wrote this note and gave it to them:

Our Assignment over you is complete...yours is just beginning. Your Destiny was in our hands...now it's in yours! **The Secret to a Successful Life...Is In Your Choices!**

Choose to Be Faithful to God.

- Always put God first and He will make your paths straight (*Prov. 3:5-10*).
- Be in Church on the Lord's Day. It will cause your faith to grow (*Rom. 10:17*).
- Read God's Word and Pray daily. It will keep your heart close to Him (*Ps. 119:9-11*).
- Diligently hold to God's Covenant of Redemption over your life (*2 Pet. 1:4-11*).

Choose to Be Faithful to Your Purpose.

- You have a Special Call of God upon your Life (*2 Tim. 1:9*).
- Make a Difference in the Lives of Others (*1 Pet. 4:10*).
- Set Priorities according to your Purpose and Never Compromise (*Prov. 3:1-6*).
- Don't let Wrong Relationships Distract you (*Prov. 1:10*).

Choose to Remember Your Family.

- The Values we taught you (*Prov. 1:8*).
- The Care we gave you (*Eph. 6:2-3*).
- The Direction we set you toward (*Prov. 22:6*).
- Follow the Example we gave you (*1 Cor. 11:1*).

But what am I to do when my grown children make wrong choices? *Your assignment is to LOVE and fervently PRAY for them...then let God work in their hearts.* Remember, He may let "Pain" teach them (*Ps. 119:67, 71*). When they're hurting enough (*without you saying, "I told you so!"*), they'll be ready for God and You to step in.

Next: More Stories from My Later Years - Through It All...God Never Let Go of Me!

