



Seasons In Time

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

Life Season III – My Young Adult Life and God (Continued)

Rudderless and Adrift!

Thirty-two years old and divorced...again! But it wasn't my fault! Both husbands turned out to be first class jerks! I don't know why, but I always end up falling for broken-wing birds. Maybe I don't think I'm not good enough for levelheaded and emotionally mature men. Or maybe I have a "savior" complex trying to rescue floundering people. But now I've found a man that I know will treat me right. He's loving and compassionate...just like me. He has dreams and hopes for the future...just like me. *The only problem is that he's in prison!* I met him through a pen-pal program in my city. But that doesn't matter. I love him and we're getting married next month...even before he gets paroled! *Once he's out, he'll live with me and I'll help him get on his feet again. This will be it...my search for the perfect husband is finally over!*

I'm thirty-five years old and I still don't have a career...or a lasting relationship. Sure, I'm a college graduate, but that's only because dad said that a young man has to have a degree to make it in the world. I despised interviewing with companies and the internship I signed up for was boring. All the young women I dated were either sold out to Corporate America or wanted to get married because their biological clocks were ticking. So, I decided to take a year off and just hike across the country to clear my head. That's when I met a fascinating guy and his girl who were drifters like me. They had a great plan. *Rob a few banks, catch a freighter to the Islands and become beachcombers. Now...that's what I really call living!*



"A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds." - James 3:4 (Message Bible). Thomas Carlyle, Scottish philosopher and satirical writer, wrote, "The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder." Without an operative rudder, the fate of a great ship hopelessly drifts with the shifting currents and blowing winds. Many a mighty sailing vessel has run aground or ended up dashed to destruction on the rocks for the lack of a skilled helmsman with a true compass. If you ever find yourself rudderless and adrift, your only hope is for the "Captain" of your soul to take over the helm of your life (1 Peter 2:25). *Read what happened to these two young adults when they personally met The True Compass and Helmsman.*

"Rudderless and adrift...that's what you are!" Those were my mother's stinging words when she learned that my recently-paroled husband ran off with another woman. *"If you think men with baggage are fascinating, romantic and exciting, you're in deeper trouble than they are!"* Her words cut deep in my heart. That's when I decided to attend a counseling program sponsored by a local church. I'll never forget the words of one of the pastors. *"You may not understand this, but you have a gift of compassion and mercy from the Lord. But you lack three things: Discernment, Wisdom and the Savior!"* I don't know all that happened, but I sensed the presence of God immersing me in billows of love. For the first time ever, I felt that instead of trying to rescue others, I had been rescued. *That was the day I found my Savior, my Rudder and myself!*

"Son, you've got a faulty compass!" Those were dad's words that kept haunting me as my new-found friends and I made our way to pull our first bank job. We spent the night in a campground just outside the town. As night began to fall, I heard music in the distance...an old familiar sound that I had dismissed years ago. It was coming from a tent just over the ridge. As I listened, I remembered the song...*"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing."* My heart repeated the stanza, *"Prone to wander—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love."* It was 10 years ago that I made my way to that old-fashioned tent revival. I'll never forget the amazing grace of the Lord that cured my faulty compass that night. I returned home and entered seminary. *From that day until now, I'm helping confused young people find True North...just as I did a decade ago.*

Next: More Stories from My Young Adult Life - *I Didn't Think Life Would Be Like This!*

