



# Seasons In Time

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

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

### **Teen-Creatures! Help Me Lord!**

**W**here did my sweet little girl go?" I murmured under my breath as my daughter stomped in her room and slammed the door! It's almost like she went to bed one night with dolls and teddy bears and woke up the next morning growing claws and snarling! I feel like she had been abducted by aliens and turned into a monster by their brain scans! She's only 12 years old...how can I endure 6 or 10 more years of this torture? And what's even worse is that I'm a 45 year old mother of four and she's the oldest. That means the other children will terrorize me until I'm nearly 60! *My husband travels most of the time, so he's very seldom home with us. It's almost like I'm a single mom! Somebody help me! I can't stand it!*

**A**s soon as I married my wife, I became an instant father of her two pre-teenage boys. I thought I was prepared to be a dad, but instead I felt like I was being hunted by a pair of Velociraptors in Jurassic Park! They never considered me to be their "Dad," so they pitted me against my wife and taunted me every minute with sarcastic remarks and blatant rebellion. I tried taking them to ballgames and playing video games. Needless to say, they cheered against our home team and mocked me when I lost the video games. Now they've succeeded in causing friction between my wife and me. *My only hope is to endure long enough for them to grow out of this "demonic" stage in life...or until I die and get out of my misery!*



**Hormones! They're a blessing and a curse!** But unless they kick in, our sons and daughters will never grow up to fulfill their purposes in the world. Without hormones, they'll never fall in love, marry and raise children of their own. *But as hormones transform children into teenagers, it causes parental mayhem when teens develop self-authority, independence and sensuality.* What does God say about teenagers? He says they're easily led astray and need wise guidance from the older generation (*Prov. 2*). He says He will turn the hearts of the older generation to reach the younger (*Mal. 4:6*). He says He can speak to them even when they are just children (*1 Sam. 3:1-10*). So, before you totally give up on the younger generation, remember that Joseph, David, Josiah, Jeremiah, Esther and even Mary, the mother of Jesus, were probably teenagers or not much older when God called them to His purposes. *Now, let's see what happened when these two families encountered the Lord.*

**W**as I that horrible when I was a teenage girl?" I asked my Dad when he came over to give me fatherly advice. "Oh Yes!" he exclaimed with raised eyebrows. "You were even worse! Remember when you tried to run away from home?" I looked at him in dismay realizing I had hidden my own teenage years from myself. "But I loved you through it all," Dad continued, "And I desperately prayed for you every day." Then Dad's face softened with compassion and sorrow. "That was the same year your mother died. Your grief was expressed with angry outbursts." Deep quietness settled over me as I began to see that my daughter feels like she's lost her Dad. *That was the turning point for our whole family. With prayer and God's grace, my husband changed jobs and is home every night. And I exchanged my frustration for faith, patience and unconditional love.*

**I** felt like I was living in a warzone with my two stepsons! It got so bad that I began to question my decision to marry a woman with children. I even started to plan a way of escape out of my marriage. So, when the boys wanted to go to summer camp with their church group, I was elated. I figured I'd get at least a week's peace and quiet. But I wasn't prepared for what happened when they returned. They weren't the same angry boys anymore! When I spoke with the youth pastor he told me that during an evening ministry service the boys came to the altar in tears. They confessed their heartbreak at losing their real dad and their hatred toward me. They both sought forgiveness and asked Jesus to come into their hearts. They were born again! *I know it will take years to fully earn their trust, but in time, I will have two "Sons"...not two "Stepsons."*

**Next: More Stories from My Middle Age Years - Where Did My Youth Go? Midlife Crisis!**

