



Seasons In Time

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

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

Where'd My Freedom Go? Sleepless Nights and Diapers

We're going to have a baby! It's going to be so much fun!" These words could only come from a young starry-eyed couple who never had children before. Since I had no idea what it would be like, I had a grand idea. "Let's get a little puppy when our baby is born," I suggested to my wife. "They can grow up together. It'll be great fun!" What I didn't realize was that neither the puppy nor our baby would be house trained! They cried, whined and whimpered DAY and NIGHT! After a week of sleepless nights and changing diapers, I resolutely announced, "One of these has got to go!" We kept the baby. But even then, the freedom we once enjoyed was long gone. *But little did we know what the Lord had in store for us next!*

Wur young married life was a blast! We laughed, played, stayed up until dawn if we wanted and partied with our closest friends. We both had high-profile careers, but when we came home at the end of the day, we were all about each other! We didn't have time for church because our social calendar was filled to the brim. Everything was absolutely perfect and life couldn't get much better...until I got pregnant! Both my husband and I were in shock! Then our shock turned to horror when the doctor told us they detected an abnormality with the developing baby. "Your baby will either have a birth defect or you'll have a miscarriage," were his sobering words. *Our life of fun and freedom deteriorated into sleepless nights of fear and dread!*



Scripture never portrays children as being an inconvenience or a burden. In fact, it's just the opposite. When God said, "Be fruitful and multiply," it was more than a command...it was an announcement of His blessings (*Gen. 1:27*). Children are considered a gracious gift from the Lord (*Gen. 33:5; Ps. 127:3*). In eastern culture, women who couldn't bear children were made to feel inferior (*1 Sam. 1:6-7*). But in today's western culture, parents-to-be must jointly decide about having children and the size of their family that's best for them. In addition, the health of both the wife and husband is essential. But if that decision is made, God holds parents responsible to dedicate their lives to caring for and raising their children to love and serve the Lord (*Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4*). *Read what happened to these two families during the season of their face to face encounters with God.*

Wnce the puppy was gone, my wife and I coped much better with our newborn. I was in total awe of this little life we had brought into the world. We had always attended church, but after our daughter was born, I actually began to READ the Bible for myself! I'll never forget the day I read Ps. 139, "You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me." The Lord touched my heart and I began to weep knowing the gift of life God had given us. That was how my call to the ministry and seminary training began. It's been 40 years since that amazing day. *God replaced the freedom we thought we lost for the joy of raising our daughters to be godly mothers of their own children. As we look back across time, we're forever grateful to God for our family...and His providential call to serve Him forever.*

The life we had before the doctor's report was forever gone! After the miscarriage, our carefree world could never be regained. As time passed we began attending church, searching for solace and understanding about this tragedy. My husband and I joined a grief support group and began to open our hearts again...to each other and to the Lord. That's where we met the Savior. He gently comforted our grieving hearts and shone His healing light into the darkness of our souls. Five years have passed now, and the Lord has given us two beautiful and healthy children. No longer do we view children as a burden...they are a blessing and a privilege from the Lord. We haven't lost our freedom...we've found our purpose and legacy. Out of our tragedy came the reality of how precious life is and the power of heartfelt prayer. *We not only pray diligently for our children as they grow into adults, but also for our grandchildren...yet to be born!*

Next: More Stories from My Young Adult Life - *Help Lord! Save Me from My Followers!*

