



Seasons In Time

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

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

I'll Make It On My Own... With or Without God!

Some people call me a *Self-made Man*. I had to be. Dad wasn't around much and mother left when I was a child. No one was there to help me with homework, so I just figured it out on my own. I knew there was a God out there somewhere, but He never showed up to help raise me or my siblings. Everything I attained in life was through my personal blood, sweat and tears. And now I'm making a six-figure salary. *Sure, I believe there is a God. But whether He was with me or not, I made something of myself!*

I never had any need for "Religion." As far as I was concerned, it's for emotionally weak people who are unable or unwilling to make it on their own. So, I guess you could call me an "Atheist." But that means I would have to acknowledge there might be a God that I don't believe in! I'm my own person and I live my life the way I want. What happens when I die? I don't know and I don't care. *I'm not looking forward to a "heaven" and I'm not afraid of a "hell." The way I see it, death is just ceasing to exist!*

When I was first called into the Ministry, I fully depended on God. I remember praying and fasting to hear clearly from the Lord. I diligently studied the scriptures and asked for His anointing every time I preached. Then I began to study the great orators and learned the art of persuasive speech. As my speaking calendar filled up, I spent less time praying and more time perfecting how I would deliver sermons. *I was in demand and I had become a successful conference speaker, whether God was with me or not!*



It's true...the Lord won't do what He requires you to do. You can't expect God to give you a job while you sit at home and do nothing! But, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." (Ps. 14:1). That's how the great King David viewed anyone who lived as if God didn't exist. Some don't believe because of arrogant pride (Ps. 10:4). Others fear divine accountability and judgment, so they choose to think God doesn't see or care what they do (Ps. 94:7-11). But some just slowly begin to trust in their personal skills and religious activities rather than God (Luke 18:9). *Read what happened to these three people when they came face to face with the Living God!*

As my career skyrocketed, so did my ego. By the time I was 35, I became the CEO of the company. I had done it by myself without God...until I suffered a massive heart attack! My whole life came to a screeching halt. Gone was my fortune. Gone was my fame. And gone was my ego. The only thing I had left was the God I left behind. During those dark months of recovery, I began to read the Bible. *That's when the Lord filled me with His love and changed me from "self-made" to "Christ-redeemed!" And now...I can't live without God!*

I was an Atheist and I liked it that way. I had no boundaries, no accountability and no guilt. I enjoyed confronting Christians who tried to convert me. "You're a bunch of religious hypocrites!" was my retort when they said I'd have to stand before God. Even when diagnosed with terminal cancer, I pushed away those who tried to pray for me. I was belligerent...until I died! I saw myself standing between God and a place of utter hopelessness begging for mercy. *"I never knew you; depart from Me!" were the final words I ever heard.*

My confidence in ministry continued to grow...until one providential night. At the end of a service, a man ran to the altar flailing his arms and cursing God. All eyes were on me to see what I would do. I felt the blood drain out of my head as I stared at this helpless man, obviously demon possessed. I had no power, no anointing and no confidence. In an instant, I sensed the presence of God chastising me, "This kind does not go out by anything but prayer and fasting." *I vowed never again to substitute my abilities for God's anointing!*

Next: More Stories from My Young Adult Life - *Finding the Love of My Life*

