

Seasons of a
Faith Walk

Elizabeth Christopher

[This page
intentionally left
blank]

© 2012, 2016 Elizabeth Christopher
All Rights Reserved

www.lizchrismusic.com

Pruning Press, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the written permission from the author.

Printed in the U.S.

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”

I Peter 4:12-13 (NIV)

Introduction

Over the past three and a half years, the Lord led my husband, Michael, and me through a three and a half year “tribulation.” I use this word in the generic sense, not as in the Great Tribulation mentioned in the book of Revelation. Three and a half years is a Biblical length of time (half of the perfect seven) and I believe the Lord, for whatever His reasons, took this length of time to do a deeper spiritual work in us.

These years were years of extreme circumstances that the Lord ordained for us – that He might receive the glory, and also that we would benefit. (NOTE: for details of our

circumstances read my book, “Godmine.”)

As God’s chosen, we are on a faith walk. This faith walk has certain “seasons.” In this little book, I describe some of the seasons we experienced during our 3½ years tribulation. As believers, we are always living in at least in one of these seasons at any given time. But just like weather patterns that sometimes overlap – we can have an “Indian summer” in the winter – many times the seasons of our faith walk overlap.

So although the seasons in this book are divided, keep in mind that a lot of them occurred simultaneously for us. They all contained pain and

suffering on some level. For whatever His reasons, the Lord uses suffering to chisel us into His likeness so that we may better represent Him in the world.

I think a few of you will relate to all of the seasons. And all of you will relate to at least one of them.

This little book will help you learn what to expect on your own faith walk. And if you are following Jesus wholeheartedly, then you are *exactly* where He wants you to be – you are on the right path, even though it involves many trials.

Whatever season you are in with the Lord, I pray these words encourage you to stay the course – no matter

how painful. It is well worth it. He knows *exactly* what He is doing. Always.

Elizabeth Christopher

Table of Contents

THE LONELY SEASON	10
THE SILENT SEASON	14
THE OBSCURE SEASON	15
THE SUFFERING SEASON	21
THE DEPENDENT SEASON	26
THE PRUNING SEASON	35
THE ABIDING SEASON	40
THE DYING SEASON	44
THE THRESHING SEASON	53
THE HELLISH SEASON	56
THE PLENTIFUL SEASON	63

The Lonely Season

During this season, God intentionally removes people and activities from your life that are detrimental to your spiritual growth and relationship with Him. *Let Him.* During this season we learn that we don't need people in the way we think we do. Nor do we need to be constantly busy.

Solitude is crucial in your spiritual development and in your relationship with Jesus.

Being alone and being lonely are two very different things. When the Lord takes you through this season,

though you are in solitude, you are never alone.

You realize that neither your social schedule nor your work schedule define you – God does.

The Lord wants you all to Himself during the lonely season. He takes delight in you and is teaching you to delight in Him alone. There is a satisfaction that He alone can provide that could never fully be found in all the company or activity in the world.

Once you learn this, He will once again provide friends and things for you to do. But you will approach all with a fresh viewpoint and will have

a new detachment that allows you to have healthy relationships. You will have a keener awareness of which projects are distractions from the enemy and which projects you are truly meant to do.

You will easily say “no” to people and things that are wrong for you. Because you are more intimate with Jesus now, you no longer feel the need to “people please” or overfill your schedule. You follow the Lord’s leading more naturally because you are in the habit of sitting at His feet and *listening* to His still small voice. You trust Him more.

You will know the pace that is right for you and no longer follow what

“everyone else” is doing. You are on the straight and narrow now and the broad road of destruction no longer appeals to you. You are free.

This is a new level of maturity. Few reach it because they fear what others will think – they want to “save face” – and they do not have the courage to sit quietly in solitude and let the Lord do His complete work in them. They don’t allow God to produce the fruit of patience in them. And the lonely season *takes time*.

Dare to let Jesus take you through the lonely season. You will reap a more peaceful life and the joy of knowing Him more intimately.

The Silent Season

Many times, this is part of the lonely season. Friends don't hear from you any more. They may wonder why. Let them. You are being obedient to the Lord. That's all that matters. Your "output" is dormant during this season.* That's exactly how God wants it. *He* is working mightily behind the scenes in, through, and for you during the silent season. This takes great faith to believe that He is. Be content in this and accept that your life looks different from most others. In a world that clamors with constant noise, dare to let God take you through the silent season.

* Or you may be very productive but remain hidden – more on this in the next chapter.

The Obscure Season

You believe God has called you to a part in the furthering of His Kingdom. Yet no one knows about you! They have never heard of you. You are obscure, hidden.

In the world – and even in some churches – everyone wants to “be seen.” Activity, popularity, fame and productivity equal success in their eyes. But this is not God’s idea of success.

You learn contentment during the obscure season. If you are meant to be “raised up” to a public position, *God* will do it – not you.

Maybe you feel you are called to a naturally more obscure work – it is inherently behind-the-scenes. This is not what I refer to here.

I am referring to a season where your work is not seen by *anybody at all*.

God is using this time strategically in your faith walk.

He wants you unknown and unseen. All ministries that are truly of Him go through this season as part of God's preparing you. Saul/Paul remained for two years in obscurity while the Lord refined him before He "sent him out." Joseph remained in prison for fourteen years. Moses roamed the desert for 40 years. And

we don't know much about Jesus' life before His public ministry – but the point is He was obscure for most of His life. And who was more effective than Him?

Once Jesus was in the public eye, He never sought fame or popularity. Quite the opposite. Many times, after performing a miracle, Jesus would tell the one He healed to stay quiet about it and not tell anyone what He had done.

What a contrast to most American ministries today! If our “ministries” are not “performed” on TV, or a stage, or are not selling millions of CDs, does it really matter? Such is

the mentality of some of today's mega churches.

Do not be fooled! There is nothing wrong with obscurity. I repeat. **THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH OBSCURITY.** Not only is there nothing wrong with it, but without it we will never fully mature or be prepared for God's purposes and plans for our lives.

GOD SEES ALL. *He* is keeping track of all you do for His honor, glory, and Kingdom – hidden or not. And He is pleased that you are allowing Him to keep you hidden for a season.

The hidden season has its reasons.

Above all, trust Him to know when or even if you need a public venue or platform for His ministry through you.

If you believe He is preparing you for a more public ministry, and yet it doesn't happen when you want – this is because He needs to keep you hidden for yet a little while longer. *Trust Him and His timing!*

And please remember that a public ministry is *not* the measure of your intimacy with Jesus.

Be content being obscure and hidden for a season – no matter how long.

You are famous in heaven for your
obedience!

The Suffering Season

We Americans avoid suffering at all costs. Our main aim in life is to make ourselves more comfortable. This in itself is not evil unless, of course, it prevents us from allowing God to do His best work in us.

God takes us through a season of suffering when everything seems to go “wrong.” He might allow your health to be effected. You might experience the loss of one or more loved ones. In my case, part of my season of suffering included the death of both my parents within a year and a half of each other.

He will also use suffering to allow you to feel what He felt. In my case, it was in the form of rejection. He wanted me to know that when He walked this earth He felt much rejection. Scripture says that Jesus was a Man of sorrows, despised and *rejected* (Isaiah 53:3). So when we find ourselves filled with sorrow, despised, or rejected, we are in the very best company of all – the company of our Lord. If you allow yourself to “go there” He will meet you with such intimacy as never before. You will feel His closeness and His Presence because He is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18).

Don't reach for the pill. Don't reach for the liquor. Don't reach for the

cigarette. Don't even reach for the phone to call a friend. Instead, during the suffering season, reach for Christ alone. Talk to Him. Tell Him how you're hurting. Tell Him you don't want to hurt. He knows your pain and is familiar with rejection.

Of course, when I tell you to allow the Lord to let you suffer I am not in talking in some sick, masochistic way – it would not be healthy if we desired suffering or enjoyed it. But be honest with the Lord. Tell Him that you don't like it but you're *willing* to suffer for His sake. After all, He went to the cross for you. How little our suffering is in comparison to His. You *can* endure

whatever cup He is asking you to drink by His grace.

Don't be afraid of suffering. Don't be afraid of pain. Anything that grows in life experiences pain – growing pains, birthing pains, stretching pains, etc.

My encouragement to you is: let God take you through the season of suffering. Let Him walk with you. Let Him carry you. Let Him use it in your life as He sees fit. He may want to remove idols from your life. In my case, one of my “idols” was wanting love and acceptance from *everyone*. The Lord removed people from my life so that I could learn that *all* the love and acceptance I could

ever want or need is found in Him and Him alone. Looking for it elsewhere is idolatry.

Don't believe the lies of the world that tell you that the "answer" is being loved and accepted by other people. Yes, God does provide true friends along the way. But even these are few and far between.

During the season of suffering, He wants you to learn of Him, know His heart, and to trust Him no matter what.

The Dependent Season

Every moment in our lives, we are dependent on God for our very breath. He is the Creator and sustainer of all life.

But when you are on a faith walk with God, He will take you through a season of dependency on Him beyond any normal kind of dependence. Because we take for granted the air that we breathe and the fact that our heart beats inside of us, we don't typically say to God, "I'm depending on you for my next breath. I'm depending on you to keep my heart beating." These are sort of "givens" – that for which we *subconsciously* depend on God.

But other sorts of “givens” that we may take for granted – like say, our jobs – may be removed for a season *so that* we truly look to the *Lord* as our Provider.

Oh yes, we can say, “God is my provider” with the best of them. But deep down, we’re *really* depending on our jobs, gifts, skills, and talents, to provide for us. Even though all of these are gifts from God, we may still secretly think that *we* are the breadwinners – *we* are the earners of our money. But when He *removes* our income, He wants to teach us a deeper dependence of on Him.

It is becoming more commonplace in this economy for people to lose their jobs and even, God forbid, their homes. He is lovingly using these losses to draw us closer to Himself and to lean on Him as never before – to truly see *Him* as our sole provider and watch Him come through for us as never before.

You may say, “But I have to work! Is God going to rain money down from the sky?”

During my faith walk, I experienced that this was a really hard place for me to “die.” My husband has always been the main breadwinner in our family. I saw *him* as our provider –

as if *that's* where the money was coming from.

But when God dried up his work, He was teaching us both to depend on *Him and Him alone* for our finances.

During the dependent season, we would praise Him. We would worship Him. We would adore Him. We would get into His Presence and stop thinking about mundane matters. This was not a relinquishing of responsibility *at all*. We were simply being led by Him. We *wanted* to work. We were *willing* to work. He knew our hearts. And yet He wanted us to learn the lesson of dependence on Him for *everything*.

So during this season, He would have others just send us a check to our P.O. box out of the blue. Or He would have us meet someone on the street – strangers or new acquaintances – and they would hand us \$60 or \$100 here or there. It was truly miraculous. Sometimes, we spoke of our need. At others times we didn't – God simply moved in the hearts of others to give to us.

Most of the time, the money came at the “12th hour” – at the last possible moment – right when the bill was due to be mailed. But it was *never* late. This was at first a hair-pulling experience for me. I was anxious. I did not like it one bit. God will

pluck this fleshly tendency out of you during the dependent season.

At one point, we were waiting on Him to provide enough money for a very large bill, and He allowed us to sell our grand piano at a price that was exactly what we needed about a week before we needed it. And this happened in an economy where most said the sale was impossible. But nothing is impossible for God!

By this point, we had truly grown to trust Him *completely* – to seek Him and ask *Him* to provide – and then to let it go and leave it up to Him.

We were already doing everything we could in the way of being

obedient to Him – *this* was our work. For example, He called me to do the Daniel fast a few times during the three and a half years, each time for at least three weeks. If you don't think this is work, think again! Or He gave my husband a job just when we needed the money. But sometimes the amounts of income were barely enough and we wondered how we were going to make it. God came through every time.

We learned to get by with the bare minimum and give Him thanks and praise for the basics: food, shelter, and clothing.

We learned to do without the latest style of clothes. We made due with what we had. We learned contentment *no matter what*.

A note about me during this time: I told the Lord I wanted to get a job, do *something*. He would not allow it. He spoke clearly to me that *He* wanted to provide for us totally in different ways. He was stretching our faith, proving our trust. Had I gotten a job, it would have prevented Him from coming through for us in ways that showed us *His* power and omniscience. It was more important to the Lord that we endure the season of full dependence on Him than for me to get a job.

So I'm here to tell you that you *can* depend on the Lord for everything. He *will* come through for you, He *will* provide for you. And even if He comes through for you in unlikely ways, or later than you would like, He *will* come through. Trust Him!

The Pruning Season

*“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes **so that it will be even more fruitful.**”*

John 15:2 (NIV)

This Scripture says that God prunes the branches that are *already* being fruitful.

For example, I had really learned to be patient (long-suffering) during our living-in-a-hotel-room years. So I thought, “Okay. I’m fairly patient now.” But the Lord would have something come up that would prove to me that I wasn’t exactly totally patient yet! He would provide

opportunities for me to exercise that fruit of the Spirit even more. He was *pruning* me in that area.

Another area He was pruning in me was the area of forgiveness. I have proven to Him over and over again that I am willing and able to forgive – by His grace – my offenders – even to the point of praying blessing over them. And yet old memories would re-surface in my mind – whether it was the devil bringing them to mind it doesn't matter. God *allowed* them to come to my mind. And during those times I was still tempted to want God to take His vengeance on them. And God did show me that vengeance was indeed His and He did indeed take care of my enemies

eventually. And yet there still remained in me a desire for things to be made *right* – and *now!* When I wanted the truth to come out about a certain situation in which there was a lie told about me, the Lord told me to remain silent.

My wanting to set things right, my sense of justice, my sense of fairness, my sense of honesty – all of these had to be pruned from me because they were coming from a heart of pride. *I* wanted it to be set right. *I* wanted to be shown it was *they* who were at fault, not me.

And yet Jesus Himself was falsely accused time and time again. He chose to remain silent before His

accusers at the very time He would have been most tempted to speak up for Himself – to avoid dying on the cross.

We too, as we remain silent toward our offenders, will die a certain kind of death. This is a pruning – a cutting off of the flesh. Not speaking up for ourselves, we are dying to self-advocacy and self-defense. God is our Defender! He may not take care of a situation the way we like or as quickly as we like (rarely as quickly as like!), but if we remain steadfast, look to Him and Him alone, forgive our offenders, move on, let go, then we are allowing Him to prune any residual unforgiveness from our hearts.

So, as you can see so far, most of the seasons of a faith walk involve some sort of pain! This is okay. This is *not* the way of the world. Again, the world medicates, they seek to numb, to avoid pain at all costs, and to seek pleasure and comfort. But that is not the way of Jesus. It is not the way of the faith walk.

So let Him prune you. Let Him cut away the bad so that more good can grow to His glory!

The Abiding Season

I almost avoided the title of this season because abiding in Christ should not last only for a season but for our entire lives. And yet there is a season that He will take you through when He makes it evident that your most important work, job, and purpose is to simply *abide* in Him. This is the foundation of our faith walk, our lives as followers of Jesus.

This is very, *very* rarely preached in churches today. The ways of the world have infected the church. Productivity, “results” – things that the *eye can see* – are of more value to the church than simply abiding in

Christ (I am talking here of the church as an organization, not the true Bride of Christ).

But the irony and paradox is this: when we abide in Him – rest in Him and let Him make His home in us – we *will* be productive. Fruit will pour forth from us without our even knowing it and the work that flows from that place of abiding will be genuinely and eternally fruitful.

Remember that we in ourselves have nothing to offer (John 15:5). But as we abide and *let Him* live through us, *He* is glorified; *He* does the work that *He* needs done in and through us. People sense this. They sense the “living water” flowing out of us

– a depth of being. They will either be drawn to us or it will be a stench in their nostrils – you will meet both kinds of people (2 Corinthians 2:15-16).

In a world where you see more and more the empty darkness in people's eyes as the devil becomes ever more active in the End Times – it's scary really – the contrast of those of us who choose to *abide* in Christ will stand out all the more because His palpable Presence shines through us *as we abide*.

So, my friend, don't let the world fool you. Don't let anything you are taught – or not – at church fool you. The answer to *all* of your issues and

problems in whatever season you are in with the Lord, is to abide in Him. Simply abide. And His life will flow through you enabling you to endure *any* season.

The Dying Season

*“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, **becoming like him in his death.**”*

Philippians 3:10 (NIV)

This season is filled with many large and small deaths.

Some of these “deaths” may include: the death of certain relationships (family and/or friends), reputation, appearances, financial security, etc.

These are the very things that we have been trained to value the most! But God will remove them if they stand in between you and your

relationship with Him. He does this in order that He may truly become Lord over these areas of our lives.

For us, during this season in our lives, He showed us that our relationship with Him is what matters most.

When you are willing to “go to the cross” with Jesus and let Him cause certain things to die in and around you, you will be misunderstood by virtually everyone. Don’t expect your church friends to understand this season, either. Most Christians will not fully “go there” – to the “cross” – with Jesus. As long as Jesus is blessing their family, keeping everything status quo,

keeping them in good health, and providing the way they want, why die? They don't see the need to obey God to that extreme. Many are called, few are chosen.

Although the “normal” American life may *look* more appealing to the flesh than those of us who truly follow Christ, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

Dying to appearances is one of the first things to go if you want to truly follow Christ. If you want to “go with the flow” and remain in the status quo, you can *choose* to not let God crucify your flesh.

Jesus had a choice. Jesus was not a martyr. A martyr doesn't have a choice in the situation. Jesus

possessed *all* of God's dominion, authority, and power in Him. He could have chosen to *not* go to the cross. He could have wiped out His accusers. He didn't have to submit to God's will. But He chose to obey and go to the cross knowing that there were *greater things at stake*.

When we choose to die to flesh in different areas of our lives, out of obedience to Christ, we will not see all of the results it produces – we're not meant to. This is where the power of faith comes in handy! We must believe in the unseen. We must believe that our choosing to let Christ crucify things in and around us not only benefits us but also benefits countless others. Only in

heaven will we see all that our “deaths” have produced.

See there is always a ripple effect to our obedience. Just like Jesus’ obedience provided salvation to the world, dying to our flesh also produces eternal results and affects others.

In God’s economy nothing is wasted. And in God’s economy He never chooses to work in a vacuum. In other words, He doesn’t ask you to die to your flesh to solely work in *your* life and heart. When we obey God and “go to the cross,” there are always multi-dimensional layers of blessings for us *and* others.

As He works in us and through us, via our obedience, others are convicted, encouraged, inspired, exhorted, etc., to become who Christ intends *them* to be.

Those who misunderstand you don't, deep down, *want* to understand. Ignorance is bliss in their eyes. They'd rather forego dying and the pain it entails and instead live a surface, shallow type of "Christianity" – one that is acceptable to the world and also to other lukewarm believers.

These are not judgmental statements I am making. They are simply the truth. Jesus Himself said that there will be those who fall away in the

last days (Matthew 24:10a). These will be believers who are not rooted deeply in Christ – believers who refuse to die to their flesh and instead do what *pleases* their flesh. Woe to them in the last days! Because in the last days a greater connection to Christ will be necessary in order to simply survive.

Start obeying God now in *all* things no matter the cost before it's too late! Be strong in the Lord so that you will be ready to refuse the mark of the beast. Do you really think you can do this in your own strength? Do not be deceived! Build your obedience muscles *before* things get too crazy in this world – and they

will get crazy (read Luke chapter 21).

If Christ is killing certain things in your life, LET HIM – because He is lovingly preparing you for the hard days ahead. If you can't walk a mile with Him now, you certainly won't be able to run a marathon with Him later.

If you are the type of person who must see results at some point for your obedience, you won't last long on the faith walk with Jesus. You have to have eyes of faith strong enough to know that some of the rewards of your obedience will not be seen until eternity. And that's okay. Get that straight in your mind,

soul, and spirit before you even start the faith walk.

And always remember, in the end you will not stand before your friends, neighbor, spouse, parents, children, or church – you will stand before God alone. He alone will judge you.

So I encourage you to live your life for Him! He is worthy of your obedience! Your immediate reward is the peace of Christ ruling in your heart along with His Almighty protection over your life. And the eternal rewards are beyond measure!

The Threshing Season

*“Then Solomon began **to build the temple** of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was **on the threshing floor** of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.”*

2 Chronicles 3:1 (NIV)

The “threshing floor” is, among other things, a place of worship.

The Lord used a season of threshing in our lives to draw us closer into a love relationship with Him. This was largely accomplished when we worshiped Him. We *chose* to worship Him – sing praises to Him –

in spite of the severe circumstances of our lives. Instead of complaining, or worse yet, getting angry with God for our situation, we worshiped Him. We focused on *Him* and not our surroundings. As a result, our circumstances were not only then bearable but were seen in the light of His love and provision.

During worship, we realize that it is all about Him, not us.

If you can learn to worship the Lord during the season of tribulation, you will learn what I believe is the greatest secret to real life: we were born to worship the Lord *always*.

Don't let the enemy rob you of this privilege and joy. Worshiping God is our greatest weapon of spiritual warfare. If you can only worship and praise the Lord when things are going well for you, then that is not true worship of the Lord – it is only “worshiping” Him for what He can *do for you*.

During the threshing season, you learn that He is worthy of your worship no matter what.

He is worthy of praise *always* because of Who He is. He is worthy of praise, honor, and glory during *every* season of our lives!

The Hellish Season

*“Simon, Simon, **Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.** But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*

Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)

I hesitated to include this season because most Christians do not understand how a loving God would allow the devil to have sway in their lives – even if just for a season. But He does. He did it with Job and Peter, to name just two. He allowed the enemy to stop Paul from seeing the Thessalonians (I Thessalonians

2:18). God allowed the devil to destroy everything and everyone in Job's life for *His* purposes.

Do not be deceived: God is Sovereign. So whenever He *allows* the enemy any place in our lives, it is for our spiritual good and God's glory. Only trouble is, *during* the hell, it is very hard to believe that *any* good can come of it – especially when it brings out the worst in us.

During this season, you *feel* like all of the work God has wrought in you during previous seasons was for naught. It seems as though all of that internal work the Lord accomplished through and in you is being destroyed. You feel like you are

regressing back into the fleshly person that you thought was dead and gone!

The pain of this season is worst of any of the seasons. The worst parts are...

- You doubt God's love for you
- You wonder why God is treating you this way after all you have been through with Him
- You cannot see an escape
- You feel like you cannot take one more day of it
- You no longer trust God the way you used to – you try, but it is very hard – it is forced
- You feel forsaken by God, even though you know that He has

- promised to never leave you or forsake you
- You get weary of thanking God for the “little” things – and it all seems like little things during this season
 - You regret ever following or obeying God at all
 - You envy the lukewarm “Christians” their easy and carefree lives, as their lives appear to be unscathed by any real hardship or trials
 - You just want OUT
 - You have no interest in this life – and not in a good, “dying to self” way – but you just don’t see the point in going on if it only means *more* suffering and hell

- You doubt God’s promise to “prosper and not harm you” (Jeremiah 29:11)
- You’ve HAD it!

You have your usual daily quiet times with the Lord still, if nothing else out of sheer habit. But instead of a fellowship time with the Lord, the quiet times are filled with lament, complaints, crying out to God for His provision and for Him to “fix” the hellish circumstances He has “allowed.” You can do little else but think of your own problems. Instead of leaving your time alone with the Lord in His peace, you leave angry because there is *still* no resolution to your problems and burdens. “WHY DON’T YOU FIX THIS?!?!?!?” You

pray for others but know that NONE of those people carry your weight and burdens so you don't really want to pray for those people any more because your own needs are so great. You lay your requests and petitions before God – the same ones you have been laying before Him for YEARS and try to muster up the faith to believe that He will actually answer any of them.

I am writing this in the midst of my hellish season and frankly I don't know the outcome or if things will get "better." I pray to be filled with God's hope and just to get through each day. And that's the best I've got.

And I must believe that the Lord, my
God Who loves me and died for me,
will not leave me in this hell forever.

The Plentiful Season

*“And I have promised to bring you
up out of your misery in Egypt
into...**a land flowing with milk and
honey.**”*

Exodus 3:17 (NIV)

During this season everything comes together, falls into place. Everything that you've been waiting on the Lord for starts coming to fruition. And it is a beautiful thing to watch because all of your heartache, disappointments, and past suffering melt away. All of the burdens and pain that you've carried for so long are lifted. And you know that it is of God because you couldn't have done it yourself! For all the ways you

tried in your own strength to “get rid of” your troubles and woes, none of them worked. But when God does the lifting of burdens, they are truly gone.

And the lack becomes plenty.

The want is replaced with abundance.

No more worries, doubts, or fears.
Those demons are dead!

You relax. You can breathe deeply once again.

You like this season best of all!

Now, you are free to give from a place of plenty. You are free to really bless others. And you remember what the want and lack felt like, so you are now compassionate toward others going through the other seasons.

Striving, struggling, hustling, worrying and wondering about the future – all history!

The new page has turned. And you will LOVE this chapter!

In Closing

I am not a pastor, leader, or any kind of famous author. I say this to encourage you because you do not need to be a “public” figure to be chosen by God.

God will choose you and do a major work in your heart and life when you are willing to obey Him at all costs. Any believer can walk the faith walk. Any believer, that is, who is willing to lay down his/her life and self-will to do the Father’s will.

I believe the seasons in this book *should* be for every Christian. But only very few will actually let God do such painful work in their lives – the work of allowing Him to crucify their flesh. I believe if more believers were willing to

“go there” with Jesus, let Him humble them, more of them would be chosen.

So the question is, do you want to be chosen?

So many want to be chosen because of the title – it *sounds* so special and important. But very few are willing to go through what the Lord requires of the chosen.

So the next time you envy the chosen of God – their position, blessings, or character – remember what they endured to get there. Then tell the Lord that you are willing to go through the seasons of a faith walk with Him. You will not regret it.