

## WHY IS LIFE SO HARD?

*“A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.*

*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble.***

*But take heart! I have overcome the world.” -Jesus  
John 16:32-33*



Wrongly fired from a job, my self-esteem was destroyed for a good five years. The things said about me were untrue, but they came from someone in authority over me, and so, I thought there must be something there.

Sadly, I let those lies seep into my soul and make me ill. The depression did not last long, but the soul-sickness seemed to drag on and on. I still loved and served God; but, I was afraid. Afraid to pray deep, powerful prayers because my soul already hurt and I couldn't face more things “wrong with me needing to be fixed”.

As I look back, from a position of restoration, I see that some things had grown up intertwined my faith that did not belong there: legalistic religious practices, un-dealt with sin, and hurt from a Christian institution. These things were stunting my growth and God deemed it best to deconstruct me and put me back together properly. That was a slow, painful process. He didn't want me to mindlessly follow rules and formulas for the Christian faith, He wanted me to work out a relationship with him built on love. While I had scratched the surface of forgiveness; He wanted me to explore it's depths. He wanted me to love him more than that Christian institution. This was a road I had to walk alone with God, trusting His timing and His ways.

Sometimes, I wrongly reflect, “What a waste. I wish I could have come to God sooner, more whole-heartedly, not been so weak...” Self-judgment can go on and on. But those thoughts are distractions brought by Satan. Being restored doesn't mean you are safe from attacks of the devil, it means you are strong enough to face them.

**Pray:** *My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. - Psalm 73:26*

*But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge that I may tell of all your works. - Psalm 73:28*

**Activity: Vizio Divina** - see next page