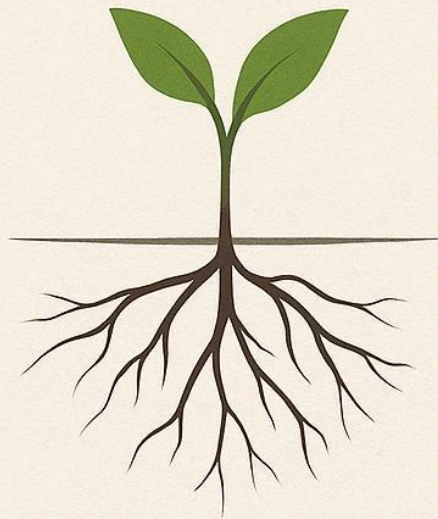


# WHEN THE HONEYMOON ENDS

From Intimacy to Maturity

BY HIS GRACE TO HIS SERVANT



*Let your roots grow down into Him,  
and let your lives be built on Him.*

COLOSSIANS 2:7

## When the Honeymoon Ends: From Intimacy to Maturity

There's a stage in every believer's journey, especially those who've come out of deep brokenness or addiction, where the presence of God feels overwhelming—constant, sweet, and effortless. It's like a spiritual honeymoon. The love of the Father wraps around the soul, the heart bursts with gratitude, and the old life seems far behind. Everything feels new, pure, and beautiful.

But often, as time passes, that season changes. The feelings fade, the nearness seems distant, and the ease of that early intimacy seems lost. Many panic at that point. They assume they've backslidden or lost their connection with God. They think, "I just need to get back to how it was before."

What they don't realize is that God, in His wisdom, is not calling them back—He's calling them forward.

That early stage was never meant to be the full picture of maturity; it was the Father's embrace after rescue—like a child being cradled after being pulled out of danger. In that season, there was no responsibility, no testing, no labor—just love. It was meant to awaken trust, not to define the entirety of the Christian life.

Jesus spoke of a similar experience in the Parable of the Sower: "The seed on rocky ground are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But they have no root; they believe for a while, but in the time of testing, they fall away." (Luke 8:13) That early joy was real—but without deep roots, it withers under pressure.

The honeymoon stage of faith is like that first burst of green life. The joy is genuine, the excitement is real, but God desires that roots go deep—roots that reach into endurance, obedience, and love that abides even when the feelings fade. "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught." (Colossians 2:6–7)

As the relationship matures, God begins to lead the believer from dependency to partnership, from being carried to learning to walk. That shift feels uncomfortable because the individual must now apply faith where once they only felt grace. It's no longer just about being loved; it's about learning to love in return—through obedience, endurance, and spiritual growth.

In the honeymoon season, God does the carrying. In the maturity season, He teaches you to walk beside Him. What once flowed effortlessly now requires intentional pursuit—prayer, discipline, responsibility, and faith. But that's not loss—it's growth.

Paul wrote, “When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, reasoned like a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things.” (1 Corinthians 13:11) That verse isn’t about losing love—it’s about maturing in it.

To try to go back to the “feeling” of that early stage is to misunderstand the purpose of spiritual growth. God hasn’t withdrawn; He’s inviting you deeper. The difference is that now, love looks less like being carried and more like walking in faith when you can’t feel Him.

The Lord is not withholding His presence; He’s strengthening your character. “For you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:3–4) The sweetness of early salvation was the kindness of God—but the journey of maturity is the formation of Christ within you.

And here’s the truth: if you tried to return to the emotional dependency of the honeymoon stage, it would actually stunt your growth. You’d be asking God to carry you when He’s asking you to walk.

So if you’ve felt that distance, don’t grieve it—discern it. You haven’t lost your intimacy with God; you’re being invited into a more mature one. Love that once felt is now love that’s proven. Grace that once rescued is now grace that empowers. “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you...” (Galatians 4:19)

God’s desire isn’t that you stay in the cradle—it’s that you grow into His likeness, walk in His strength, and love Him not just because of what you feel, but because of who He is.

“Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:7, NLT)

### Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for loving me through every stage of my walk. Thank You for the sweetness of those early days when I first knew Your grace—and thank You for the seasons of stretching that have taught me to stand. Lord, help me not to crave the feelings of the past, but to pursue the maturity You are building in me now. Deepen my roots, strengthen my faith, and teach me to walk by trust, not by sight.

When I can’t feel You, remind me that You are near. When I feel weary, remind me that You are forming Christ in me. Let my love grow stronger, steadier, and truer as I walk forward with You. In Jesus’ name, amen.