



WHEN THE PAGE TURNS

E. EVORA GOCELA



— WHEN THE —
PAGE
TURNS

NEW CHAPTER.
SAME AUTHOR.
GREATER PURPOSE.

E. EVORA GOCELA

Copyright

When the Page Turns

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ISBN: 9798183573732

Published independently by E. Evora Gocela.

DEDICATION

To my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The faithful Author of every page of my life.

Thank You for Your presence in every season,
Your grace in every weakness, and Your
faithfulness through every chapter. This story is
ultimately Yours.

To my beloved husband and daughters,

Thank you for your love, encouragement,
sacrifices, and unwavering support. Many of these
pages were written while sharing life with you, and
I am grateful for the blessings, lessons, and
memories God has given us together.

And to every reader,

May these pages remind you that you are never
alone. Whether you are stepping into a new
chapter, grieving an ending, waiting for direction,
or learning to trust God with what comes next,
remember:

The God who faithfully wrote every page behind
you is faithfully writing the pages ahead.

Trust the Author.

He is good. He is faithful. And your story is safely
in His hands.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Writing this book has given me another opportunity to reflect on God's faithfulness through the many seasons of my life. As I look back, I am reminded that no journey is ever traveled alone. God, in His kindness, places people along the way whose love, encouragement, prayers, and support become part of the story He is writing.

First and foremost, I give all glory, honor, and praise to God. Every page of this book is a testimony to His faithfulness, grace, wisdom, provision, and unfailing love. Through every season of waiting, uncertainty, growth, and transition, He has remained constant. Whatever good is found in these pages belongs to Him.

To my beloved husband, thank you for walking beside me through every chapter of our journey together. Thank you for your steadfast love, encouragement, patience, and partnership through the years. Your faith, support, and commitment to following God have been a blessing to our family and to me.

To my daughters, thank you for the joy you have brought into my life. Watching you grow, learn, serve, and walk with God has been one of my greatest blessings. Many of the lessons shared in this book were learned while journeying through life with you. You are a constant reminder of God's goodness and faithfulness.

To my parents, whose lives and sacrifices helped shape the person I am today, thank you for the love, values, and lessons you imparted. Caring for you during your later years was one of the greatest privileges God entrusted to me. Your influence continues to live on in my heart.

To my family, relatives, and dear friends, thank you for your encouragement, prayers, and companionship

throughout the years. God has used your presence in countless ways to strengthen and bless my life.

To the many people God allowed me to serve alongside in ministry, discipleship, Bible studies, and Christian fellowship, thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey. The lessons I learned through your stories, struggles, victories, and faith have enriched my life more than you may ever know. Many of the reflections in this book were shaped through the privilege of walking alongside you.

To my church family and the leaders, mentors, and fellow servants who faithfully point others to Christ, thank you for your example, encouragement, and partnership in God's work. Your commitment to making disciples and helping people grow in their relationship with God continues to inspire me.

To every reader, thank you for investing your time in these pages. It is a privilege to share this journey with you. My prayer is that you will not simply remember my story, but that you will see the faithfulness of God woven throughout it.

Finally, to Jesus Christ, the Author and Sustainer of my faith, thank You for writing a story far better than anything I could have written for myself. Every chapter of my life bears the evidence of Your grace. Every page reflects Your faithfulness.

To You alone be all glory.

E. Evora Gocela

When the Page Turns

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PREFACE

There are seasons in life when everything seems to change.

A chapter closes.

A familiar routine ends.

A door shuts.

A dream takes an unexpected turn.

And suddenly, we find ourselves standing on the edge of a page we have never read before.

If you have ever experienced a season like that, this book is for you.

When the Page Turns was born out of my own journey of learning to trust God through life's transitions. As I look back over the years, I can see how faithfully He guided me through seasons of waiting, uncertainty, surrender, provision, and growth. Yet while I was living through those moments, I often could not see what He was doing.

Like many people, I wanted answers.

I wanted clarity.

I wanted to understand what God was writing before He finished the chapter.

Instead, He taught me something far more valuable.

He taught me to trust Him.

Through every page of this book, my desire is not simply to tell my story. My desire is to point you to The God who faithfully writes every story.

Perhaps you are facing a transition right now.

Perhaps you are grieving an ending.

Perhaps you are waiting for direction.

Perhaps you are standing in a season that feels hidden or uncertain.

Wherever you are, I hope these pages remind you that God has not forgotten you. The same God who has been faithful in the chapters behind you will be faithful in the chapters ahead.

My prayer is that as you read, you will be encouraged to trust Him more deeply, surrender more fully, and discover His presence in every season of life.

Most of all, I pray that you will come to know the Author behind every page.

Because when we know Him, we can trust Him with whatever comes next.

CHAPTER 1

THE SOUND OF A TURNING PAGE

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

– Isaiah 43:18–19 (NIV)

Have you ever noticed that some of life's most significant changes arrive quietly?

There are seasons when we can see change approaching. We have time to prepare, make plans, and adjust our expectations. We anticipate the transition before it arrives.

But other changes come without warning.

One day, life feels familiar. We know our routine. We understand our responsibilities. We feel settled in the chapter we are living.

Then something shifts.

A new responsibility appears. A door closes. A relationship changes. A season ends. A new chapter begins.

Before we realize it, we find ourselves standing between what was and what will be.

Most of us believe that God is writing our story. What we often struggle with is trusting Him when we cannot see the next page.

We would rather know where the story is going before we release what is familiar. We want understanding before obedience, certainty before surrender, and answers before trust.

Yet God often works differently.

Again and again throughout Scripture, He invites His people to trust Him before they can see what He is doing. He calls them to follow before He reveals the destination. He teaches them to depend on His character rather than their ability to predict the future.

That is why turning a page can feel both beautiful and unsettling.

We may not know what lies ahead, but Jesus does.

The One who holds the beginning and the end is never surprised by the chapters that surprise us. The Savior who walked with us through the previous season will also walk with us into the next one.

As I look back on my own life, I can see several moments when God gently turned a page and led me into a season I never expected.

One of those moments began with the birth of our first daughter, Elka.

At the time, I could not see where God was leading me. I only knew that He was asking me to trust Him.

A Page from My Journey

Before becoming a mother, I spent several years building a career that brought me great fulfillment.

I began as an HR Supervisor and served in that role for six years. Through opportunities that God graciously opened, I later became Executive Assistant to the Vice President of our company.

My days were filled with meetings, projects, conversations, and responsibilities. I enjoyed working with people and contributing to an environment where every day presented new opportunities to learn and grow.

I appreciated the pace of the work. I enjoyed solving problems and serving alongside talented colleagues. I was grateful for the position God had entrusted to me.

I never imagined I would leave it behind.

Then Elka was born.

My husband and I found ourselves facing a decision that would change the rhythm of our lives.

After much prayer and careful consideration, I chose to resign from my position and devote my time to raising our daughter.

I knew it was the right decision.

What I did not realize was how much of my identity had become connected to a chapter that was coming to an end.

At first, I focused on the joy of becoming a full time mother. I looked forward to being present for milestones, everyday moments, and memories I did not want to miss.

What I did not fully understand was that I was also saying goodbye to a season that had shaped a significant part of my life.

Looking back now, the decision seems straightforward.

Living through it felt very different.

One day I was surrounded by people, schedules, projects, and constant activity. The next day I was caring for a newborn and learning an entirely different rhythm of life.

I loved my daughter. I never questioned the decision we had made.

Yet I was also learning that gratitude and grief can exist in the same heart at the same time.

I was grateful for the gift of motherhood.

At the same time, I was grieving the loss of a season that had become familiar.

The routines were different.

The pace was different.

The responsibilities were different.

There were moments when I missed the interaction and structure that had been part of my daily life. There were moments when I wondered if I would ever feel comfortable in this new chapter.

The future felt uncertain.

I did not know what God was preparing.

I did not know what He would teach me.

I did not know how this season would shape the years ahead.

Yet beneath all my questions was a quiet assurance.

God had not made a mistake.

The Lord who had faithfully guided me through one chapter would faithfully guide me through the next.

I could not see where He was leading, but I knew He was leading.

Looking back now, I realize that while I was focused on what I was leaving behind, God was already preparing what lay ahead.

The page was turning.

And the Author of my story had never stopped writing.

Along the Way

When God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, the people of Israel were living through a season of uncertainty.

They remembered the miracles God had performed in the past. They remembered His provision, His protection, and His faithfulness. They could look back and see evidence of His hand at work throughout their history.

Yet God spoke these surprising words:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

—Isaiah 43:18–19 (NIV)

God was not telling His people to forget His faithfulness. He was inviting them not to become so attached to what He had done before that they failed to recognize what He was doing in the present.

I believe many of us struggle with the same temptation.

Sometimes we hold tightly to a season because it brought us joy.

Sometimes we cling to a role because it gave us purpose.

Sometimes we resist change because the familiar feels safer than the unknown.

Yet the God who worked in yesterday's chapter is still working today.

His plans for us do not end when a chapter closes.

His purposes do not disappear when our circumstances change.

His presence does not leave when life becomes unfamiliar.

The Author never stops writing.

He continues shaping us.

He continues leading us.

He continues drawing us closer to Himself.

The question is not whether God is working.

The question is whether we will trust Him enough to follow Him into the next chapter.

As I reflect on that season of my life, I realize that God was doing much more than changing my daily routine.

He was preparing my heart for lessons I could not have learned any other way.

He was teaching me that some of His greatest work takes place beneath the surface, where no one else can see.

Most importantly, He was teaching me to find my identity in Christ rather than in the roles I fulfilled.

What I Could Not See Then

When I resigned from my position, I thought I was simply changing roles.

I believed I was moving from one responsibility to another.

What I did not realize was that God was gently reshaping my understanding of identity.

For many years, much of my time and energy had been invested in my career. Without realizing it, I had begun to associate significance with achievement and purpose with productivity.

The workplace offered visible measures of success.

There were goals to accomplish.

Projects to complete.

Responsibilities to manage.

Progress that could be seen and recognized.

Then God placed me in a season where many of those measurements disappeared.

There were no promotions.

No performance reviews.

No corporate achievements.

No titles to pursue.

Instead, my days became filled with feeding, nurturing, comforting, teaching, and caring for a child.

Many of those moments went unnoticed by everyone except God.

And it was there, in the quietness of ordinary days,
that the Lord began teaching me one of the most
valuable lessons of my life.

My worth had never been determined by a title.

My value had never been established by a position.

My identity had never been rooted in
accomplishment.

Those things could change.

Christ never does.

God began reminding me of truths I had known
for years but had not yet fully embraced in my
heart.

Before I was an employee, I was His child.

Before I held a position, I belonged to Him.

Before I accomplished anything, I was already
loved by Him.

Jesus did not love me more when I was successful.

He did not value me less when my role changed.

His love for me was never based on what I did.

It was based on who He is.

The same Savior who walked with me through my years in the workplace was walking with me through motherhood.

The same God who had opened doors for my career was now opening a different door for my growth.

My assignment had changed.

My identity had not.

Looking back, I can see that God was not removing me from His purpose.

He was leading me further into it.

At the time, I believed He was changing my circumstances.

In reality, He was transforming my heart.

Sometimes God changes our assignment because He wants to serve others through us in a new way.

Sometimes He changes our circumstances because He wants to shape something within us.

While we focus on what is changing around us, He is often doing a work within us.

And that work frequently becomes one of the greatest gifts of the season.

The lessons I learned during those years have remained with me far longer than any title I once held.

God used that season to remind me that true purpose is not found in what we accomplish for Him.

True purpose is found in walking closely with Him.

Because at the end of the day, our greatest achievement is not what we have done for Christ.

It is knowing Christ more deeply and becoming more like Him.

That was the work He was doing in me.

And I am grateful that He loved me enough to turn the page.

May I Ask You Something?

As you reflect on your own journey, can you remember a season that arrived unexpectedly?

Perhaps it came through a new responsibility.

Perhaps it came through a loss, a relocation, a health challenge, a career change, or a relationship that took an unexpected turn.

Perhaps it was a season you never would have chosen for yourself.

When that chapter first began, what occupied your thoughts the most?

Were you focused on what was ending?

What was changing?

What you feared losing?

Most of us naturally focus on what is leaving our hands.

Yet with time, many of us discover that God was doing far more than we realized.

Can you now see evidence of His hand during that season?

Perhaps you can see His provision.

Perhaps His protection.

Perhaps His guidance.

Perhaps His loving correction.

Or perhaps you can simply see that He never left you.

There may have been moments when you felt confused, disappointed, or uncertain.

Yet through it all, Christ remained faithful.

Even when you could not understand His plans,
He understood them completely.

Even when you could not see the road ahead, He
was already there.

That is one of the beautiful truths of following
Jesus.

We do not walk toward an unknown future alone.

We walk with the One who already knows the end
of the story.

If God is turning a page in your life today, what
might it look like to trust Him before you
understand everything He is doing?

What would it look like to place your fears,
questions, and uncertainties into His hands?

What would it look like to believe that His wisdom
is greater than your understanding and that His
plans are better than anything you could design for
yourself?

Perhaps the invitation before you today is not to
figure everything out.

Perhaps the invitation is simply to trust the
Author.

Before We Turn the Page

If there is one lesson this season taught me, it is that God often does some of His most meaningful work in seasons we would never choose for ourselves.

At the time, leaving my career felt like an ending.

And in many ways, it was.

A meaningful chapter had come to a close.

A familiar routine had changed.

A role that had shaped part of my life was no longer mine to carry.

But what I could not see then was that God was not removing me from His purpose.

He was leading me further into it.

The new season looked different.

It felt unfamiliar.

At times, it felt uncomfortable.

Yet God's presence remained unchanged.

The Lord who had been faithful in one chapter continued to be faithful in the next.

That is what I want you to remember if you find yourself standing in an unfamiliar season today.

God's faithfulness is not limited to certain chapters of our lives.

He is present during seasons of growth.

He is present during seasons of waiting.

He is present during moments of celebration.

He is present during moments of uncertainty.

He is present when doors open.

He is present when doors close.

He is present in the chapters we understand and in the chapters that leave us asking questions.

Most importantly, Jesus remains the same through them all.

Circumstances change.

Roles change.

Plans change.

Seasons change.

But Christ does not.

The One who walked with you yesterday walks
with you today and will walk with you tomorrow.

You may not know what the next page holds.

You may not understand where the story is going.

But you can trust The One who is writing it.

Every page He turns carries a purpose.

Every season He allows can be used to shape us
into the people He is calling us to become.

And every chapter ultimately becomes another
opportunity to know Him more.

A Step Forward

Looking back now, I can see that God was doing
far more than changing my daily routine.

He was teaching me to trust Him with my identity.

He was teaching me that purpose is not confined
to a workplace, a title, or a particular season of life.

Purpose is found in faithfully walking with Christ
wherever He leads.

At the time, I could not see the next chapter.

But the Author of my story already could.

And because He could see what I could not, I
could trust Him.

Perhaps you are standing in a season of transition
today.

Perhaps a chapter has recently ended.

Perhaps a new one is beginning.

Or perhaps you find yourself somewhere in
between, uncertain about what comes next.

Wherever you are, remember this:

The God who guided you through previous
chapters has not abandoned you in this one.

The Savior who has carried you this far will
continue to lead you forward.

His plans have not failed.

His purposes have not been interrupted.

His love for you has not changed.

This week, take a few quiet moments to reflect on
a chapter of your life that God unexpectedly
changed.

Write down three things you believed you were
losing when that season ended.

Then write down three blessings, lessons, or
opportunities that eventually emerged from that
same season.

As you reflect, thank God for His faithfulness.

Thank Him for the ways He was working even when you could not see it.

Thank Him for the chapters He has already written.

And thank Him for the pages He has yet to unfold.

You may discover that what once felt like a loss became one of God's unexpected gifts.

And if you are currently standing in the middle of a transition, remind yourself of this truth:

The Author is still writing.

Closing Reflection

Leaving my career was not the most difficult lesson of that season.

The more challenging lesson was learning how to honor what had ended without remaining there.

Because even when a chapter has been beautiful, saying goodbye is rarely easy.

Every ending carries a measure of grief.

Every transition asks us to release something familiar.

Yet gratitude allows us to honor the past without living in it.

And faith allows us to step forward without knowing everything that lies ahead.

God never asks us to cling to a chapter He has finished writing.

Instead, He invites us to walk with Him into the next one.

As I learned to loosen my grip on what had ended, I discovered that Christ Himself was waiting for me in the chapter ahead.

And that may be the greatest comfort of all.

When God turns the page, we never walk into the next chapter alone.

Jesus is already there.

CHAPTER 2

WHEN ENDINGS HURT

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."

— Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)

We often celebrate beginnings.
A new opportunity.

A new ministry.

A new friendship.

A new season.

People naturally gather around beginnings with excitement and anticipation. We enjoy talking about what is ahead and imagining what might be possible.

Endings are different.

They are often quieter.

They rarely arrive with applause.

Sometimes they leave behind an empty chair, a familiar routine, or memories that suddenly become more precious because they can no longer be repeated.

What makes endings especially difficult is that they often involve things we once thanked God for.

A season we enjoyed.

People we loved.

Responsibilities that gave meaning to our days.

A place where we felt useful, valued, and known.

When those chapters come to an end, we may find ourselves carrying emotions we did not expect.

We may feel grateful and sad at the same time.

Hopeful and uncertain at the same time.

Ready to move forward and reluctant to let go at the same time.

Perhaps that is because every meaningful ending carries a measure of loss.

And loss has a way of revealing what mattered to us.

Yet as followers of Christ, we grieve differently than those who have no hope.

Our sorrow is real, but it is not without purpose.

Our tears are real, but they do not tell the whole story.

Because even when a chapter ends, Jesus remains present.

The Savior who walked with us through that season continues walking with us into the next one.

That truth became very personal to me after I resigned from my job and entered a completely different chapter of life.

A Page from My Journey

My first Monday after resigning is a memory I can still picture clearly.

For years, my mornings followed a familiar rhythm.

I would wake up early, prepare for work, make arrangements for my daughter, and head to the office.

The routine had become second nature.

So on that first Monday morning, I woke up with a sudden sense of urgency.

I glanced at the clock and immediately thought, *I'm going to be late for work.*

For a few brief moments, I forgot that I had already resigned.

Then reality settled in.

There was no office to rush to.

No meetings waiting for me.

No reports to review.

No departments to call.

No schedules demanding my attention.

For the first time, I experienced the quiet that follows a major transition.

Nothing around me had changed overnight.

Yet everything felt different.

As the days passed, I discovered that what I missed most was not merely the work itself.

I missed the people.

I missed greeting familiar faces.

I missed the conversations in hallways and offices.

I missed sharing meals with colleagues who had become friends.

I missed hearing about their lives and sharing pieces of mine.

I missed being part of a team.

Most of all, I missed the relationships that had become woven into the rhythm of everyday life.

Many of those friendships had shaped me more than I realized.

Now those daily interactions belonged to a chapter that had ended.

There were days when loneliness quietly visited.

At the same time, there was never a moment when I regretted choosing to be with my daughter.

The sadness I felt was not regret.

It was grief.

Not grief because I had made the wrong decision.

Grief because something meaningful had come to an end.

A chapter can be both complete and difficult to release.

A season can be both good and temporary.

As I adjusted to my new reality, I found myself asking questions I had never considered before.

Who am I now?

What will this season become?

What is God preparing beyond what I can see?

Beneath those questions was another one I rarely spoke aloud.

Will I still matter if I am no longer needed in the same way I once was?

Looking back now, I realize that many transitions uncover where we have placed our sense of significance.

When familiar roles disappear, we often discover what we have been leaning on.

Yet even in those moments of uncertainty, the Lord was gently reminding me of a truth I needed to learn.

My value was never dependent on a position.

My significance was never tied to a title.

My worth had always been secure in Christ.

The same Savior who loved me in one season loved me in the next.

The same Shepherd who guided me through my career was now guiding me through motherhood.

Although I could not yet see the whole picture, I trusted that God was leading me.

And if He was leading me, I could trust where the path would go.

Along the Way

During that season, God continually brought me back to Psalm 23.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths..."

— Psalm 23:1-3 (NLT)

What comforted me most was not merely the promise of provision.

It was the picture of a Shepherd who leads.

Sheep do not see the entire journey.

They do not know every turn in the path.

They simply learn to trust the shepherd who walks ahead of them.

That image spoke directly to my heart.

I wanted answers.

God offered His presence.

I wanted clarity.

God offered His guidance.

I wanted to see the entire path.

God reminded me to trust the One who could already see it.

The same Shepherd who had faithfully led me through one chapter was faithfully leading me into another.

And because He was leading, I did not need to fear the unknown.

What I Could Not See Then

Looking back now, I can see that God had already begun preparing my heart long before I submitted my resignation.

Before that chapter ended, He had prompted me to take courses in dressmaking, fashion design, and

pattern cutting. At the time, I did not fully understand why I felt drawn to learn those skills. I simply sensed that it was something I should pursue.

Years later, I realized that God was quietly preparing me for a season I could not yet see.

That realization taught me an important truth about the character of God.

When He turns a page, He is already writing the next one.

Long before we recognize a transition, He has already gone ahead of us.

Long before we understand His purpose, He has already begun His preparation.

Nothing catches Him by surprise.

Nothing interrupts His plans.

Nothing arrives before He is ready.

What feels sudden to us is never sudden to Him.

I also learned something equally important about grief.

Grief is not always a sign that we are resisting God's will.

Sometimes grief simply reveals that a season mattered.

The sadness I felt did not mean I lacked faith.

It did not mean I regretted my decision.

It did not mean I wanted to return to my previous life.

It simply meant that I was saying goodbye to people, experiences, and responsibilities that had become part of my story.

And God never asked me to deny that sadness.

Instead, He invited me to bring it to Him.

Scripture reminds us that Jesus Himself was acquainted with sorrow. He stood at the tomb of Lazarus and wept, even though He knew resurrection was moments away.

His tears remind us that grief is not weakness.

Grief is part of loving.

Whenever we love people, seasons, places, or experiences, saying goodbye will often involve sorrow.

What I could not see then was that while I was grieving what had ended, God was preparing what would come next.

He was preparing experiences I had not imagined.

Relationships I had not yet formed.

Lessons I had not yet learned.

Opportunities I had not yet seen.

The page felt empty to me.

But it was never empty to Him.

The Author was already writing.

May I Ask You Something?

Have you ever said goodbye to something you knew God was asking you to release?

Perhaps it was a role you treasured.

A ministry that brought you joy.

A dream that changed direction.

A relationship that entered a different season.

A chapter that helped shape who you are today.

When that ending arrived, did you find yourself carrying both gratitude and sadness?

Thankful for what had been, yet reluctant to let it go?

Most of us expect faith to make goodbyes easy.

Yet many times, faith and grief walk together.

We can trust God and still feel the ache of loss.

We can believe His plans are good and still miss what has ended.

As you look back now, can you see ways God was preparing you before that chapter closed?

Can you see evidence that He was already working on the next page while you were still reading the current one?

Can you identify moments when His hand was guiding you, even when you could not understand where He was leading?

And if you are facing an ending today, what might it look like to trust the Shepherd even when you cannot yet see where the path leads?

What would it look like to believe that His presence is enough for the next step?

Perhaps you do not need all the answers right now.

Perhaps you simply need to stay close to the Shepherd.

Before We Turn the Page

If there is one truth I wish more people understood, it is this:

Grieving an ending does not mean you lack faith.

It does not mean you are resisting God.

It does not mean you are ungrateful.

Sometimes it simply means the season mattered.

The people mattered.

The memories mattered.

The chapter mattered.

God never asks us to pretend otherwise.

He never asks us to deny the reality of loss.

Instead, He invites us to bring our sadness to Him and trust Him with it.

While a chapter may end, His presence does not.

While circumstances change, His character remains the same.

While seasons come and go, His faithfulness continues.

The Shepherd remains with us.

He walks beside us through every farewell.

He remains near during every uncertainty.

And He faithfully leads us into every new chapter.

There was sadness in my heart during that season.

But there was also anticipation.

While I missed the people, the work, and the familiar rhythm of my days, I could not shake the quiet conviction that God was preparing something beautiful for our family.

I did not know what it would look like.

I did not know how He would unfold His plans.

I simply believed that if God was the One turning the page, then whatever came next would carry His purpose.

Looking back now, I realize that faith is not the absence of sadness.

Faith is choosing to trust God while sadness is still present.

The two can exist together.

And often they do.

The ending may hurt.

But it is not the end of the story.

What felt like a loss was actually a transition.

What felt like a goodbye was God preparing the way for something new.

The grief was real.

But so was His guidance.

A Step Forward

Think about a chapter of your life that has ended.

Perhaps it was recent.

Perhaps it happened many years ago.

Write down three things you miss about that season.

Then write down three ways God was faithful during that same chapter.

Take a moment to thank Him.

Thank Him for the blessings you experienced.

Thank Him for the lessons you learned.

Thank Him for the people He placed in your life.

Thank Him for the ways He carried you, even when you did not recognize it at the time.

Sometimes gratitude helps us release what we have been trying to hold.

Sometimes looking back helps us recognize God's faithfulness more clearly.

And when we remember His faithfulness in previous chapters, we find renewed confidence to trust Him with the next one.

Closing Reflection

As time passed, I discovered that acknowledging an ending was only part of the journey.

The greater challenge was learning to loosen my grip on what had been.

Because sometimes we do not merely miss a chapter.

We try to carry it into the next one.

We continue comparing the present to the past.

We continue measuring new seasons by old experiences.

We continue longing for what God has already completed.

Yet God, in His wisdom and love, rarely asks us to live in yesterday's chapter.

He invites us to remember it with gratitude, learn from it with humility, and release it with trust.

The past can be cherished without becoming our home.

And as we learn to loosen our grip on what has ended, we make room for what God desires to do next.

Before God taught me how to embrace the future, He first taught me the freedom that comes from releasing the past.

And that freedom begins when we trust that the same Savior who was faithful in yesterday's chapter will be faithful in tomorrow's as well.

Because when an ending hurts, Jesus remains near.

And when a page closes, The Author is still writing.

