Before You Knew to Ask

God Was Already at Work:
A Faith Scorecard
for Every Season

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Chapter 1

God Was at Work Before You Knew to Ask

Childhood and God

The shift. You may think your story began the day you started making your own choices. It began long before, with Someone already looking after you.

You do not remember your first year of life, but you survived it. Many did not. Before you could ask for anything, God was already keeping you alive.

There are three main eras in a person's life: the childhood era, the youth era, and the old age era. This book, however, follows an unusual order: childhood, then old age, and then youth.

Little is written about childhood and old age, so each gets a short chapter of its own. Youth, the era this book is mainly about, comes last, the years many of us look back on, so that it can be read alongside the author's other writings on youth.

The childhood era is important to each youth as an individual. It is an era with real dangers: in many countries, babies and young children are at risk from serious illnesses, which is why good medical care matters so much.

It is good, then, to thank the Almighty God for seeing you through. You faced the challenges of those early years,

perhaps some of the infantile illnesses too, and you survived. Praise God for this!

Some infants died prematurely. Some were left with lasting disabilities or learning difficulties as a result of illness. Each is precious to God.

Here you are: thoughtful, capable, and standing on your own feet. All of this is the doing of the Almighty God, whose mighty hand is on your life. If your story is a different one, you are no less precious to Him.

He kept you through dangers you never saw, and through seasons that could have cut your life short. It is by His grace that you are alive today!

The childhood era precedes the youth era. It is the foundation for the other eras and may determine, to some extent, what your life eventually becomes. It therefore deserves careful handling. Fortunately, the elders are there, particularly parents, teachers, and mature young people, who see the younger ones through so that they grow into responsible young people.

Remember, for instance, how parents see to it that their very young children are kept from the traps of wicked people, how they are protected from harm, and how deeply parents long for their wellbeing. All these, and many more, make the childhood era precious, guarded jealously by people who value these lives.

Your turn. Think of one person who looked after you when you were small. Thank them this week, and thank God for them.

END OF THE FREE SAMPLE

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