



My
Special
Moments
With
God
xxxo

Jody R Goode

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Dedicated to all of you who by God's perfect grace have in some way touched my life and made it better.

It is to you I offer the following words as a window into my life with Christ.

Growing up in Him can at times be painful; yet as I look back I see how far the Lord has brought me and feel enriched having known Him a little better each day.

I look forward with hope and joy to the day when His work in me shall be made complete, all the while my days being filled with those very special moments He chooses to share with me.

It is a privilege for me as I share some of those moments now with you my beloved family, friends, and colleagues.

In the Love Christ died to give,
Jody Rogosch Goode

July 2020

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Father surely knows best. He knows when death will mean LIFE to one of His children. My life with Him has never been the same since I died that March afternoon in 1994. Let me start at the beginning ...

On March 27, 1976 I chose to believe and receive my precious Jesus into my heart, and to this day I know for a fact that He has never left my side. No babe in Christ could ever fathom what a relationship with Him will have to offer and I know I did not have a clue. Years passed and I made feeble attempts to know and understand the Truth of God's Word. A turning point in my relationship with Jesus came as I listened to a speaker telling me and the others in the assembly that evening that only one in ten people who profess to be Christian would still be making that same profession of faith ten years hence. It was at that very moment when my heart cried out to the Lord giving Him permission to make sure that I would be that one in ten. According to my Lord's command I wanted to love Him with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength. To this day He has never failed to teach me how to love Him that way and I can now look back on my life and see how His sovereign Hand has and continues to move in perfect time and order to guide my path and desires along His path of righteousness.

It was now 1994 and with my husband and children we had prepared for our first big family vacation in years. We plotted our route, packed our camper-trailer and were on our way from Idaho to the Grand Canyon of Arizona, very excited to site-see the beautiful country along the way. A simple prayer of protection for our journey was just the beginning of what has become the single-most important event in my life with Christ. The second day into our journey we met with savage Utah canyon winds that first caught the camper and as the camper gave in to the gusts, in turn our vehicle was thrown into a multiple roll-over wreck. Amazingly, physically, we all sustained very minor cuts and bruises; however, spiritually I was changed forever. During the five hours I was unconscious as a result of a concussion, I experienced God in a way I still cannot fully comprehend. After I awoke in the hospital I proclaimed to my nurse that "I was just with God's angels and He let me come back!" My mind will not allow me to remember that time with the Lord, but I believe wholeheartedly that I had been to the sacred Holy of Holies. I wondered if I had actually died and come back at the Lord's will. I concluded that if I didn't physically die I certainly did allow my "self" to die and experienced a complete surrender of heart and soul to the gracious Lord of my salvation and at that moment devoted every remaining breath I was to be granted to the Lord in service until that day when I would find myself again in His Presence, this time forever.

A few days after the wreck found us home again in Idaho and the cobwebs began to clear from my mind. I started thinking about the date of the car wreck and wondered why that date sounded so familiar—March 27th. Beginning to recollect, I pulled out my Bible and looked at the date I had printed in gold on the cover "March 27, 1976". It was my birthday in Christ! It had been eighteen years to the day since I trusted Jesus and believed on His marvelous Name. On that day eighteen years prior I had given my heart to Him and He had promised never to leave me nor forsake me. What a grand reminder—He was still and forever would be with me, even until the end of the age. I have never referred to the wreck as an "accident" and never will for my Lord and His angels orchestrated the whole thing to draw me intimately closer to my faithful Father who surely does know best. He knew that death would bring to my soul the everlasting LIFE I so yearned for.

As I humbly look forward I can only stand completely awed by the majesty of my King upon His throne and pray that He is all I will ever see in my future, all the while trusting in Him, serving Him and loving Him with all that is within me.

The Truth of God's Word that now runs like a living stream within my heart as a result of this blessed event ...

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

Galatians 2:20 NAS

4/3/98

XXXO ~ JRG (*kisses, kesses, kesses, hug!*)

BE STILL

My mind is like a turbulent sea
each wave and splash of water
bringing frustration...
...anxiousness.

My God says, "be still".

This day, can there be found any good in it?
Each turn I make I find more
trouble...
...confusion.

My Father says, "be still".

The world, moving so fast,
too fast.
Where are they going?
Where am I going?

My Comforter says, "be still".

I feel alone - though there are crowds surrounding me.
Will I get lost?
Who will find me?

My Friend says, "I am with you, be still".

The Lord is my God, my Father, my Comforter, my Friend...

In Him I (will) find rest and peace.

With Him I find the power to...
...be still.

4/12/82 ~ JCR



THIS LEAF...

This leaf fell from a tree today and came to rest upon my shoulder.
It fell ever so gently there its presence was almost unknown to me.
O, how that reminds me of the love God pours down from Heaven.
It rests gently upon us guiding and protecting us.
It is the quiet force that sees us through the most turbulent times.
How often, though, God's love also goes unnoticed and unappreciated.
But it is there and He is there, always, just the same.
Just as this leaf was there today, gently resting upon my shoulder.

11/11/82 ~ JCR

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made..." Romans 1:20 NAS

A PROMISE OF FOREVER

Forever and a day I will love you;
this promise I proclaim for all to hear.

Forever was made for a love like ours,
blessed by our Father up above.

In forever lies our future, full of a great many new surprises.
Some may bring sorrow,
many will bring to us great joy.

Through all that is to come our way, I promise to stay by your side,
protected, guided and comforted always
by the mighty Hand of God.

The strength of our love comes from deep within our hearts and souls ~
the world cannot touch it.

So let us step forward into our new life ~ hand, in hand, in Hand,
you and I and the Lord together,
forever and a day.

5/26/83 ~ JCR

LIFE TOGETHER

What does it take to live and grow together?

It takes all that one has from the core of his being.

It takes the desire to draw from all one has and use it to probe deep into his partner's soul.

It takes commitment to see each obstacle through to the very end.

No one ever said it would be easy but its worth is more than can be imagined.

There must always be understanding and concern for the other's point of view ~ this I know must be striven for. Evil selfishness will take every chance it gets to destroy all that has been achieved. Know what it feels like; recognize it and cut it down before it has a chance to take hold and grow, replacing the love-bond already developed being nurtured to maturity.

Tears must sometimes be necessary ~ don't fear them but work through them for *"joy comes in the morning"*.

Life together means life together for the partners involved. Keep in perspective all other relationships. All relationships are important so don't let them die, but also remember that the relationship between spouses is a special one indeed.

Keep it special, keep it growing,
for life together is a many splendid thing.

5/31/83 ~ JCR

*Psalm 30:5 NAS

LOST AND FOUND

It was too late, I had lost my way. My authorities in higher education demanded I study Theology, the "religious" doctrines. I think they thought I was studying God, but as it turned out I was studying man and his crazy ideas about God. It wasn't long before I found out who my true enemies were. Their names were Doubt and Confusion ~ alias Satan. They kidnapped me and kept me hostage.

Where was He? I called on Him; I wept before Him. Wasn't He going to pay my ransom so I could go Home? I should have remembered then my ransom was paid a long, long time ago by the One I felt had deserted me. But Doubt and Confusion had me tied down so tightly I just couldn't pry myself loose.

After what seemed like an eternity, He came to tell me that my eternity belonged to Him. Through His subtleties He tugged, and nudged, and called me into His Presence away from my enemies, to find my way home, to set myself free. He said I had met Him before, that I should meet Him again and that He is all I need to become whole once again. "He" is Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of Man.

Life as the world knows it is coming quickly to an end. It is now the time to utterly cling to our Father in Heaven, for now is the time that faiths will fail giving Satan his invitation to drag us down to the depths of his hell. He wants us, but we have the power to overcome like no others. The power comes from Him who dwells within, the Christ, our forever faithful Friend.

Oh, if only then, when my enemies Doubt and Confusion came to claim my life, I knew what I know now. They wouldn't have had the chance to steal what properly belonged to my Father in Heaven. But I didn't, and I became lost. It was when I was so lost that by God's amazing grace I was found again by Him. Through it all I found out how God had blessed me with teachings so rich in His love. He taught me through tormenting experience that Satan is real and very powerful in his domain which is the world. But my soul will now and forever belong to Heaven and Eternity with my Father which art in Heaven.

Hallelujah, Jody's Home!

12/20/83 ~ Jody Rogosch Goode

THE GIFT OF APPRECIATION
THE ART OF APPRECIATION

Before you may receive I must give ~
and I give because I have received from you
the graciousness that comes from deep within
your heart.

Who can you call friend but he who does not walk away in your
time of need?
I can call you friend.

God promises an angel to watch over me and protect me even in
my deepest sleep.
My angel dwells within this place,
I believe he dwells inside of you.

You took me into your house and gave me a place to lay my head.
It is no longer just a house but a home to me.

For you and others like you God is saving up His crown jewels.
For those with hearts of gold like yours only the richest
treasures in Heaven will do.

Through all of your love and charity I am learning the art of
appreciation and I offer here my gift of appreciation ~
a gift only received from those by whom you are
appreciated.

I cannot say I couldn't do it without you for "I can do all things
through Him who strengthens me", but the joy I've found
in doing it with you cannot be measured by the
world and its ways.

God bless you, and be in peace.

2/3/84 ~ JRG

* Philippians 4:13 NAS

PUPPETS WE ARE NOT!

When one knows the Lord, he also knows that he is not a puppet on a string, but FREE.

FREE to love his Lord; FREE to submit himself unto his Lord; FREE to serve Him and His people.

To those outside the Holy family, it appears as if the members no longer have a will, but are bound by a set of strings that directs their every move.

How wrong they are!

God created us all so that we might all live in peace and have communion with Him.

He created us in love and so gave us a FREE will, a will that allows us to accept or reject Him.

If we were puppets on a string we would not have a thing to say in how we lived, for our Creator would direct our strings always in the path of His righteousness, but be unable to rejoice in our obedience for it would not be of our will, but of His.

O, how our Lord cried when in our will we rejected Him and turned away. We turned away so we might live our lives in freedom; when in doing so we placed ourselves in bondage of sin and death ~ for there is no life apart from the Father.

O, how He tried to show us that what He had for us was so much better! But because we had no strings to hold us back, in our blindness we continued our journey away from our God.

But He loved us too much to forget us, so He tried and tried to gain our attention and did so to the point of coming to us in flesh and in blood, dwelling among us, living the life of a Man.

But He was God and knew the only way the door separating us from Him could be opened would be to die for us and regain victory over our bondage of sin and death.

The door is now open and He is calling us to pass through it into an eternal life of joy and peace ~ to share in His Glory.

But because we have no strings attached, the choice still is ours to hear His voice and follow it or turn away and enter into eternal death.

Our God loves us so much, so has offered us a way back into His Presence FREE from the sin of our past; but puppets we are not ~ so our Life or our Death is a choice we all must make.

Choose Life!

Call upon the name of our Lord Jesus and enter into His Peace.

7/5/85 ~ JRG

THE LIFE IMPOSSIBLE?

Life can be so strange.

Days pass, emotions flare whether high or low with every new event.

Friends are thought of but rarely contacted.

You lose sight of who is truly important to you.

You remember a day when your devotion to your greatest Friend ran so deep.

You were happy then, joy filled your heart and His love flowed from you and touched all those around you.

Will those times remain just a memory or can the Lord fit as well into your life the way it is now as He did then?

If you will just listen to the Lord with your heart and not your head, you will know without a doubt the life impossible is the life *without* the Lord.

Invite Him back ~ the time is now.

He is patiently waiting for the door to your life to reopen.

His total love awaits you and will surround you once again.

3/9/87 ~ JRG

THANK YOU MY LORD JESUS

You have befriended me Lord Jesus
Even unto death
Even unto resurrected Life

It means so much to know I have Someone I can always count on
You alone Lord are worthy to be praised
Out of praise my enemy flees and I, the winner,
am victorious in Christ Jesus

Life comes from knowing You as my Lord and Savior
For You are Life
My eyes are set on eternity, yet there is a joy
about today

There was a time Lord, when I came to You and You to me
Reborn ~ a babe in Christ
My mind was fed with the truth of Your
precious Word

I was fed with You Lord, for You are
the Truth and the Word

Now, through time and trials, You have been firmly rooted
growing in my heart and in my very life

I am content with this life Lord and thank you
for all that is in it

My desire is to know You fully Lord
and I have all eternity to allow Your work,
which You began,
to be made complete in me

Praise be to God
For in You all things are made possible

Thank You my Lord Jesus

Thank You

10/19/89 ~ JRG

YES, I AM ADOPTED

I am loved by my Father more than even I can imagine.

His love fills me and sustains me.

Because He loves me He teaches me and disciplines me and I receive it because I know He knows what is best for me.

How special I feel knowing my Father chose me specifically to be His child.

He knew of me and thought of me even before I was. He was patiently waiting and hoping I would choose Him. It is His lovely nature not to force Himself on anybody. He let me know He wanted me, however, the adoption did not take place until I chose Him. Oh, how glad I am that I did.

No words can truly describe the relationship I have with my Father. I am not afraid to say that my relationship with Him comes first.

I know my Father is perfect and cannot tell a lie and He promised me that if I would seek Him first before anything else that He would add to my life everything that would make my joy complete. To this day He has remained faithful to that promise.

I strive to please my Father. He has done so much for me. I long to hear Him say of me ~ "This is my child, in whom I am well pleased."

You know, I have many brothers and sisters who out of His great love for them my Father adopted also. We are all so different and yet we share in the common bond that unites us into one great family and that is the love that brought us all together. As I get to know my brothers and sisters I find that they have such an overflowing gratitude for what our Father has done for them that their greatest desire is also to be pleasing to Him.

Do you know what is funny? I have never seen my Father face to face and yet I have no doubt that He is real. I see evidence of His greatness on the faces and in the lives of everyone who loves Him as much as I do. And I do love Him with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. Oh yes, He is real.

Our Father has only one begotten Son ~ the very image of Himself. I guess you just don't fool around with perfection. Our Father sent His Son to be with us so we could get to know our Father as we got to know His Son. There was really one purpose for His coming to us. The Son knew that our adoptions would not be legitimate unless He closed a serious gap that would always keep us from our Father. The gap I speak of is our wrongful and rebellious nature. Our Father is just not like that ~ He is good, He is pure. You could not find any wrong in Him if you spent your life searching. We just could not be with Him unless somehow our natures could be changed. Our Father's Son shared the love His Father had for us and it was His desire to make us adoptable, to do whatever He had to in order to unite us into one Family. Pretty selfless considering He was the only rightful heir to His Father's many riches. He knew the only way to bridge the gap was to die for us. He was perfect just as His Father is and He bore our grievous natures and nailed them to the cross on which He died. Because perfection cannot dwell with imperfection His Father was not with Him in His death but His Father used His power to call His Son from death into life and they are together now and forever.

By our Father's Son's death we are now freed from our old natures and can now dwell with our Father who is perfect because He now sees us as perfect through the sacrifice His Son made. Really ~ because our Father and His Son are One it was our Father who made the sacrifice out of His great love for us.

Our Father did His part. He made our union possible and I did my part by choosing Him as He chose me to become an adopted child of His; to join in His many riches; to become a legitimate heir to His inheritance.

Yes, I am proud to say, I have been adopted into the richest family in Heaven and on Earth. These riches are measured only by the abundant life and joy I now experience day to day and someday into all eternity.

9/12/90 ~ JRG

*Matthew 3:17 NAS

YOUR TRUTH HAS SET ME FREE

Dearest Jesus, my God come in flesh to save my soul;

Your words, even those from the beginning of all eternity, have set me free ~ free to live for, love and serve You alone Who are my almighty God.

In the midst of so many queer beliefs and practices that serve only to muddle and confuse, I find rest and peace for my soul as I seek You in all truth and sincerity of heart.

They all say you are good, Teacher, Prophet ~ but *YOU* say You are God and that there shall be no other god before You.

Who am I to believe?

I believe on Your Name ~ the Great I Am, the Alpha and the Omega, the One who was and is and is to come.

Only the Holy God could offer Himself as the final pure sacrifice to save man from all unrighteousness.

Your blood has cleansed me and Your truth has set me free.

From the depths of my heart and off the lips of my mouth, all worship, praise, glory and honor are Yours.

I, too, am Yours.

9/12/90 ~ JRG

QUIET CONFIDENCE

There is a peace that only comes from knowing the Lord Jesus Christ in the way which He desires ~ intimately and One on one. I call it quiet confidence.

You have been through the rough waters, over the rocky terrain and ventured to the joyous mountaintops of this life. Life continues and He is there to share with you every moment, just as He promised.

You no longer have to ponder the question, "Where will I spend eternity ~ in Heaven or in Hell?" ~ both of which you know exist. In the depths of your heart and soul you know that eternal life with your Creator became possible through the shed blood and resurrection of the God/Man Jesus Christ and became reality the moment you received the gift of grace and salvation offered only through Him.

Commitment to your Lord comes easy because as you have walked with Him you have discovered, though you may have strayed at times, He has never failed you nor misguided you.

Father really does know best.

You are convinced the Lord Jesus Christ is no liar, He is just who He claims to be ~ God and Savior of all and the only One truly worthy of your complete trust and faith.

You have found His Word to be undeniable truth, not fallacy, and when meditated upon, new life and energy become yours. Though the world goes on around you, you carry on day after precious day in His Name with that very special...

consistent...

undying...

...quiet confidence.

8/12/91 ~ JRG

THE MASTER'S TAPESTRY OF LIFE

In secret I was fearfully and wonderfully made,
a single fiber created in perfect texture and hue
meant to be woven into the Master's tapestry of life

Often I tried to take over the Master's Hand
and weave myself into His tapestry
yet never quite fitting I found my ends
all tattered and worn

Now I seek the company of other fibers
perfectly hand-crafted by the Master
to share with them my life
and become intertwined with theirs
for I know that a cord of many strands
is not quickly torn apart

Strength, comfort and understanding come from sharing
and soon I find my ends not so tattered, not so worn
I find once again that I fit
through the eye of the Master's needle

In faith we come together and in time we find
a beautiful tapestry of lives being perfectly woven
by the Master's Hand of Love

5/31/92 ~ JRG

WHEN I LEAN MY HEART

When I lean my heart I find myself at Your feet awestruck
by Your majesty and holiness

A wealth of knowledge and wisdom ~ the very mystery of You ~
reserved only for those You have redeemed,
there for the taking to be held onto
and treasured forever

Humbled and down on my knees I enter into glorious
praise and worship of my God, El Shaddai,
Who alone is worthy of such adoration

When in Your presence I feel invincible as well I should,
for all the power which is Yours now is mine
to bring back into the life You have so
graciously given me day by precious day

How well will I steward what You have entrusted to me?
My heart's desire is to hear from You on that
judgment day, *"Well done my good and
faithful servant, go now and enter into
your rest".

My trust I place in You welcoming Your gentle voice of
reason and guidance and in obedience I remain with
You, by Your grace never against You.

Until that final hour I will continue to lean my heart toward
Yours for there is no better dwelling place than this.

3/3/93 ~ JRG

*Matthew 25:21 NAS

DADDY STRUCK

He is perfect

He can do no wrong

There is power in His love

He provides

He protects

There will never be a day I will be alone for

where I am there He is also

He listens

He hears

He guides

He makes everything seem okay

Can there be a greater wisdom?

I think not

It is my Dad I'm talking about, the everlasting God, the Lord,

the Creator of the ends of the earth and it is through

stars that I gaze upon His face, simply amazed

and struck by the majesty of Him.

7/22/93 ~ JRG

NOW YOU STAND IN GLORY

What you now know we can only dream of.
You have taken our Lord's hand home.
You see His face and stand in His glory.

In your life you pursued the prize of the upward call of God
in Christ Jesus, your love touching many people along
the way. Now His work in you has been made
complete.

No more pain, no struggles, just a peace that truly does
surpass our understanding ~ you know that the same
hand that led you home is lifting your loved
ones and comforting them in your absence.

And oh how glorious the chorus of the angelic host must sound.
Greeting the godly home, rejoicing over lost
but now saved souls.

And you are there in the midst of it all.
The hope you had through knowing your Savior while
alive on earth has been satisfied beyond measure.

Still alive for all eternity yet gone from this earth.
We will miss you until our hope too is satisfied and we
find ourselves standing with you in all God's glory.

(We love you Lois!)

2/10/94 ~ JRG

BORN INTO HEAVEN

My precious little one,
you graced our lives for but a moment of time.

I mourn the loss of your presence in my life,
yet you were born into Heaven, directly into the
presence of your Father, God ~ who has known
you for all eternity.

He knows your name;
He beholds your beauty.
He has known the number of your days on
earth for always.

I cannot forsake the wisdom of His ways,
for I know our Father is perfect in all things.

I miss you now and long for the moment when we shall meet
face to face ~ on the other side of Heaven.

Until that time and until that place,
rest peacefully in the arms of the One who loves you most.

My precious little one.

Love, Mommy

9/2/94 ~ JRG

GLIMPSES OF GLORY

There are moments in life when You are more than real to me.

Your Presence fills not only my mind but my heart and my soul.

In these moments I am welcomed into Your holy inner
sanctuary; finding myself consumed ...
in Your peace,
in Your love,
in Your grace,
and witness to Your majesty.

The floodlights of comprehension shed new light on my soul.
I can fully know You, just as I am fully known,
for this is Your desire and Your delight!

We speak together with voices that utter no sound,
and I stand in complete amazement
as Your wisdom unfolds before me.

Abiding,
I in You ~ You in me,
just as it was meant to be.

A precious moment where I have caught a glimpse of holy glory,
knowing that more of You would surely be too much.

With each succeeding moment as this,
I journey fewer steps from Your holy inner room,
longing to be graced once again by Your Presence,
to catch yet another glimpse
of You, my God,
in all Your glory.

10/10/94 ~ JRG

FATHER OF THE BRIDE

Dearest Father, Father of the Bride, I owe You my life.

I may not have seen clearly then, though from the moment I was born
Your compassion for me has been greater than understanding.

O, the love of a Father, my Father.

When I was a babe You fed me with milk;
as I matured You gave me meat to eat.
I can say I never was in want of any good thing.

You trained me in the way I should go.
You promised to be there always, to guard my path,
to see me through.

So faithful to Your promises are You.

Even when I walked from You believing I knew best,
You followed close behind knowing that when I was old
I surely would return.

I have returned to my first love, the love of my Father.

You gave me life as no one else could; how very full my life is.
With all of my heart I humbly seek Your face, full of mercy,
full of grace.

All You are, You've given to me ~ just because by Your name I am known.

My inheritance is rich ~ purer, more precious, more beautiful
than earthly treasures could ever afford.

Father, may I never deny Your goodness.

Though the wedding bells are ringing and soon the Groom will come,
there is yet time to grow in understanding and knowledge
of who You are and who I am to be.

In patience and determination You have prepared me well.

Soon I shall be ready for my Groom, foreknown by You,
to live and dwell in the place He has prepared for me.

A marriage made in Heaven from the very beginning, and I owe it all to You.

O Father of the Bride, My Father.

5/7/95 ~ JRG

NIGHTWATCH

Blessed is the soul who stands the nightwatch...

In the quiet of the night she waits upon the One who called her name.

He presents Himself to her in a way only the spirit can comprehend...
...He sets her feet to dancing and her heart to rejoicing.

"I am in the presence of the King! Here am I Lord ~
please send me!"

Speaking wisdom to her innermost parts,
she knows her calling and responds to His command.

Dressed for battle ~
she pours out her heart at the foot of the throne for those she loves...
...and even those she does not know.

A pleasure in His sight, He hears her cry,
and answers in the place where He dwells.

With a single word, He gathers a mighty Host and sends them out, to war over those she has labored for,
to protect them from harm at the enemy's hand.

The prayer of a righteous warrior has accomplished much.

The Heavens celebrate in its triumph...
...The Enemy trembles in his defeat.

Guarded carefully in the refuge of His Wing,
she rests as the new dawn approaches.

Blessed is the soul who stands the nightwatch...

8/9/95 ~ JRG

A JEWEL IN HIS CROWN

...Once upon for always there lived a very rich, yet loving and compassionate King. His storehouses were full to overflowing with everything necessary to make life in His Kingdom perfect for Him and all those who dwelled there. He would hold back nothing from His people for He loved them so.

In His Kingdom He asked but one thing of His people ~

"Will you let Me love you and care for you all your days?"

With this request the King gave full freedom to His people to accept His offer of love and provision ~ or not. He knew it was risky to give such freedom but if they let Him love them because they had to He was certain no one, including Himself, would be happy living life that way. Surprisingly, the King found Himself without a Kingdom for every one of His beloved subjects had chosen to reject His love and walk away from His Kingdom forever into exile. The King loved his people very much and wanted desperately for them to come back.

Knowing just what He had to do He laid aside His crown of many jewels and set off to gather His people.....

I heard a knock at my door yet opened it to find no one. Although it was night, I was nearly blinded by the radiant light shed by the gift left on my doorstep. It was a gloriously white garment and resting upon it was a brilliant jewel, neither of which I had ever seen or heard of anywhere in the world. I looked down at what I was wearing and suddenly felt quite stained and dirty so I eagerly slipped this new garment on to discover a perfect fit. It was as if this was all I would ever have to wear! I couldn't get it dirty; the fabric wouldn't tear; it kept me warm when I was cold and cool when I was hot. Feeling so completely protected with the garment on I decided then I would never take it off. I then gazed at the indescribable beauty of the jewel and wondered who would give *me* these most precious gifts. Most certainly it was someone who knew me and loved me. I had to find out! I noticed a blood stain on the door where my unknown friend had knocked and a trail of blood leading from my doorstep but strangely the blood screamed LIFE, not death to me. Without a thought I stopped what I was doing and set out to follow this trail in hopes of finding the one who had done this great kindness to me.

My journey down the trail, whether night or day, was illuminated by the brightness of my new garment. I clutched the jewel in my right hand and looking down I followed, step by step, each drop of blood as they guided me down this path of life. I found myself at every door of every person everywhere knowing that my friend had given to each one the same gift given me. Who would have such an endless treasure and who would possibly just give it away? Much to my amazement I realized that not everyone appreciated the value of these gifts. Some of the gifts ~ stepped on, trampled and dirty ~ their original radiance and beauty beginning to diminish due to total disregard ~ remained on the doorsteps where my friend had left them. I remembered I couldn't get my garment dirty and decided the garment had to be worn for its mysterious qualities to be unleashed. I looked up from time to time to see something so shocking I could scarcely believe it. Some people had picked up their gift but instead of trying on the garment and cherishing the jewel they ran to the market to sell them! Imagine this if you will, a gift of priceless worth ~ LIFE ~ traded for but a few pennies. I knew this friend of mine must be full of a love so deep and so endless because as I continued down the path I found we had returned to the doors where the gift had been disregarded or sold the day before and replaced the old gift with a new one.

I started to meet others along the way. They were looking for my friend too. Together we discussed how this gift had changed our lives from the inside out. We owed our friend so much; we owed him our lives. We decided the only way to find him was to stay on the path; to follow the life-giving drops of blood for as far as they went even if they took us to the very ends of the earth. Time started to pass as if time did not exist and our group in search of our friend grew continuously. We all found that as long as we stayed wholly devoted to our search and did not stray from the path
~ to the left or to the right ~ we did not hunger nor did we thirst.
We had everything we needed to live this new life in victory.

The path led us to a hill and on that hill was a cross. Somehow we all knew we were nearing the end of our journey. We also knew that the cross presented a question we all had to ask ourselves ~ "am I willing to give all I now have, gift and all, in order to finally find and meet this great friend I had been long in search of?" Some decided no, turned and walked away; the radiance of their garment dimming and their jewel turning to coal with every step. There were many, however, who decided yes and continued on. Knowing full well what had to be done, one by one we climbed that cross and shed our blood ~ full of death ~ so our friend's blood could replace our own and give to us the LIFE which had screamed to me when first I saw it outside my door. As our blood drained from our bodies we felt the agony of death yet at the same time were comforted in knowing that our friend had been here first ~ the sacrifice was his. Just as death was realized we felt life overcome us as his blood flowed through us. The moment we were filled with new life we knew in our deepest parts that this life was really love ~ the purest love the world has ever known. The power of this love carried us from the cross directly into the presence of our friend where we finally met him face to face. With our garments as radiant as the day they were given to us and our precious jewel in hand we could do nothing but fall at his feet and praise and thank him for all he had done and for every step of our journey to find him.

...The rich, compassionate and loving King was back in His throne room for He had completed what He had to, to gather His people and bring them back to dwell at will with Him in His Kingdom and let Him love and care for them all their days. One by one, His people carried their jewel to Him and placed it back in His crown from whence it came, for as many as there were people with jewels a place had been prepared for them on His royal crown
~ none too many and none too few. Somehow He knew...

and He was their King
and they were His people
and together they lived
happily ever after.....

I Give You All My Love,
Your Friend ~ King Jesus

2/14/96 ~ JRG

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me." Galatians 2:20 NAS

Life into Life

~ In Loving Memory of Augusta Stelling Rogosch ~

1905 ~ 1996

Though I no longer dwell amongst you be assured that death has not touched me

Do not mourn over my passing from life into life for I am in a far better place than you

Cradled gently in the right hand of my King, it is a sweet, sweet song that I sing

I have never beheld a more beautiful face than that of my Lord ~ the Way, the Truth and the Life

You have never known love until you've looked full upon His wonderful face, so full of mercy and grace He alone does possess

I can no longer wander to the left or to the right, for my Jesus has me and will never let me go

No ~ do not mourn, but celebrate with me the sweet transition from life into Life

July 1, 1996

~ XXXO

Jody Rogosch Goode

GET ME TO THE CHURCH

At the new dawn's light I am to wed,
but I know not where to find The Church.

My Bridegroom is the One of my dreams ~
will He stay until I reach The Church where He awaits with
arms outstretched?

I have long been searching for The Church,
but it is not to be found in the buildings I have been.
Yes, the signs on the doors say "Church" but when I
enter I find no life ~ the Life The Church promises
me to give.

The Church as I understand it is made of people,
but the people I have seen are so very busy doing...what?
I am not sure they know what, and they do not notice
I am there.

I am looking for my Bridegroom
and as yet I have not found Him, so I press on ...

I continue to pass many crumbling buildings,
all whitewashed and patched to cover up their decay.

I have no time to waste;
I must find my Bridegroom;
I must find The Church.

On the path which I now travel, I spot a gate
~ a very narrow gate.
On the other side there are many smooth stones
assembled so securely forming a solid structure,
not yet complete, built upon its foundation
a perfectly mastered cornerstone.
This cornerstone, one so unique, I cannot
remember seeing anything like it
strengthening the walls of the
buildings I had previously seen.

Could this be The Church I am seeking?
Is my Bridegroom waiting for me beyond its door?
How can I get through this very narrow gate?

The only way through this gate, I found, was to strip myself
of everything ~ to leave all I had behind.
I did not think twice for I had found that which I
was seeking, The Church, my Bridegroom,
Life and Love everlasting.

Through the gate and through the door I ran into the waiting
arms of my Bridegroom.
He had waited just as I had hoped and I now know
He would have waited as long as it took for me
to find Him, for He knew I was looking.
That is just the kind of Love He has for
His Bride.

In all the excitement I had not realized that when I passed
through the gate and then through the door I had
crawled inside my own heart.
Now I understand ...
The Church is not made of people,
but of the hearts of people seeking the
Bridegroom.

The new dawn is rising ~ I found The Church and I found my
Bridegroom.
I hear the wedding bells chime ...
so let the celebration begin !!!

11/23/96 ~ JRG

*"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all
your heart."* Jeremiah 29:13 NAS

CHRISTMAS JOY

O, the joy of that first Christmas morn,
When in my heart the Savior was born.

The spirit of Christmas is not in the giving;
Rather in new life given to each new believer,
As Christ is born and newly living.

No wonder Heaven's angels rejoice
When a new heart believes and mouth confesses!
He is risen once again by the power of faith, by the power of love,
This He who is Jesus.

Our stripes He has worn so the yoke would be easy and the burdens be light.
To the pit He descended and with Him our stripes.
With each proclamation of faith and of love the stripes are then healed,
And He's resurrected to Heaven's most glorious height.

I joyously share in His shame and His pain.
For I know I was dead, but new life's been given.
And on me He finds not a remnant of stain.
With new eyes I see the wise of the earth become Heaven's fool.
For Him an instrument, in His hand just a tool.

The first shall be last and the last shall be first.

I shall join together with those now first;
To celebrate the grandest of all Christmas morns;
When each heart that brought our Savior to life,
Will forever depart from this place of strife.

We shall enter His throne room, unleash His clenched hands.
Help Him up from the floor, upon bended knee He's been found.
We're all here our Lord Jesus, not one is left out!
All stripes have been healed and we're no longer bound.

To our knees we all fall, nothing else we could do.
Merry Christmas Christ Jesus—it's always been You!
O, the joy of that precious first Christmas morn;
When in our hearts, dear Savior, there You were born.

12/25/97 ~ JRG

HANDPRINTS

Come with Me, My beloved son
To journey far from where you've been,
Yet find you Home when you are done

Unchain those shackles and shake them loose
As each link falls your stride you choose

Though you look to the mountains, there is yet another door
To find your Home, travel you must the valley floor

I AM with you, ne'er forget
When trouble falls like showers on the plains
I AM with you, ne'er forget

The valley floor can be so dark
But forge ahead, My son
Let visions of Home become your mark

Accept My manna to keep you strong
When your journey appears endlessly long

Did I tell you I love you, My beloved son?
My thoughts toward you outnumber the sand
With each setting of the sun

I know you too well to think you will not fight
Against the path that I have chosen
To create in you a clean heart, and a spirit right

Your struggle only entangles you amongst the thorny bush
It is then, when no more strength is found within to fight, to step, to push
You resign yourself unto defeat, and close your eyes to die
At that very moment, in the twinkling of an eye
Look behind to find My precious Lamb of sacrifice
Entangled in that bush for you, His sufferance suffice

Yet before you lies My outstretched Hand
To lift you from the valley floor—that dark and barren land
And set you firm upon the ground
Your journey's found its end

You came whence called and traveled far
Now not the man you used to be
You know where Home is and the path that led you there
Now GO—My Handprint upon you—and lead the others Home
I wait in love for thee

6/8/99 ~ JRG

WHAT SHALL I ASK OF THEE

On my knees before Thee Lord
Oh, what shall I ask of Thee?

My needs are great, my wants are greater still!
Are You there, dear Lord, to hear my plea?

Sweet child, I am here always with you as I've promised
Leave your needs; set down your wants
For I hold them tightly within My heart
Please desire instead to focus wholly on Me

I was with you in your making
I have watched you as you've grown
I was there each time you fell
to kiss your cheek and help you stand
Back on your feet you swiftly ran
instead of staying Home with Me

I know you well—better even than you know yourself
I know each need and every want
and in good time your heart's desire will be met
But, I tell you, first you must be free

My Truth will set you free, indeed
So when you cry, "Lord, what shall I ask of Thee?"
My reply will be, "Forget your needs—forget your wants -
Instead, from deep within,
ask ye only for Me"

6/29/99 ~ JRG

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

This question, thrown out there time and time again...
"What would Jesus do?"

The answer is and always will be in the answer yet to this...
"What has Jesus done?"

When I am down He sits with me and cries with me and then He wipes my tears away.

When I am joyous He sings and dances and laughs with me until I can sing and dance and laugh no more.

When I am cruel and selfish and full of pride He comes to me and gently shows to me the better way. His rod and staff - they comfort me.

When fear sweeps over me like a fire raging deep within the forest;
He sends His rain of peace to put the fire out.

When I go where I should not, He goes there too, so I will not go alone ~
He is my Lamp to show me back to the security of Home.

When He uttered the words, "It is finished", what had He done to say it so?

Ah, yes ~ He died upon that Cross with the burden of my sin upon His soul;

Then Life from Heaven came and washed that sin away ~
Therein Faith conceived to be born in you and born in me!

What has Jesus done?
Why, He has been my Friend.
Have I been His?! ~ I pray so 'til the end !!!

Herein lies the evidence ~ your answer to this alone...
Have I been yours?

What would Jesus do? He would do what He has done.
So, I am off to do what He would do, in as much as we are one.

12/24/99 ~ JRG

JUST HOPIN' IT SHOWS

I'm lovin' you and hopin' it shows

I never knew I would have to learn how to love, but I do

I look to Jesus and love looks back - I want to love like that

He sits me up on His lap to let me see the world around me ~
looking out from His point of view

It's then, when feelings I've never known come alive
within my heart and I cry with compassion and laugh
with utter joy at the life spread out before me

I never want this to end!
I want to live this love until my dying breath is spent!
O, Jesus, please tell me ~ what must I do?

He pointed to all those so important in my life and then even to
those I do not know and said to pass my love on in the little things I
do and say and think each day, for if I don't it will surely, slowly
dwindle away

So, here's to hopin' and prayin' that my love shows
for I aim to love you, with His love, each and every day

1/19/00 ~ JRG

QUIET TIME

By Your blood, Your sweat and Your tears,
my heart has become strong and full of confidence

As a soldier awaits the enemy's attack
I now stand firmly planted ~
shielded by Faith
girded by Truth
and wielding the Two-Edged sword of Your Spirit

Your Word has gone forth and I have purposed to listen and obey
It is then Your blessings flow

And, O, how sweet the blessings
for this I surely know

Now I lie in wait ~ at times the silence deafens

Yet, it is then my heart remembers ~
and a song of Faith, of Hope and Peace dances freely off my
tongue and I am assured I will never be alone

You, my Lord, are my courage and my strength ~
that which I need to endure the silence of this Your quiet time
until, by grace, my eyes shall see the dawning of tomorrow

7/3/00 ~ JRG

MIRROR IMAGE

The day I met You was the day I met my very best forever friend.
You shared with me Your wounds and every battle scar ~
each one endured for me.

“Could I ever find a friend who would care more for me than Thee?”

My mirror showed to me the reflection of one whose heart had been renewed.
“Look, everyone, what my new Friend has done for me!”

Each day we walked and talked a little more.
And with each step and word, I was drawn more closely to Your Heart.

“What a blessing it is for me to know You my dear Friend.”

My mirror showed to me the reflection of one who now stood tall and strong.
“Everyone, come meet my Friend and let Him be your Friend as well.”

Our walks and talks found us at every battlefield
where You had fought the good fight that saved my soul.
The victory was won, but a battle rages on.
You girded me with armor to protect me from attack.
Together we fought, side by side, until another day was done.

My mirror showed to me the reflection of a soldier, battle scarred and weary,
yet proud to be counted in the ranks of an army fighting to protect.

“Hey, everyone, come and join the ranks ~
together we shall be strong and able to conquer all that waits for us,
especially with our Friend so closely by our sides!”

I can't thank You enough for being Who You are.
Dear Friend, I am whom I've become because of Your selfless, caring Love
that You have shown to me since that first day we met.

That day in my mirror and much to my surprise,
the reflection looking back at me was that of my dear Friend ~ not mine!

My heart was humbled and as I wept,
His tears rolled down my cheeks,
and the cry of His own heart became the very cry of mine....
“Go therefore ~ for I am with you, always, to the end.”

7/4/00 ~ JRG

READY, SET ~ GO HOME

~ In Loving Memory of John E. Rogosch ~

1931 ~ 2001

My blessed one, it's almost time ~

Are you ready to come Home to Me?

Oh, no ~ not just yet.

So much to do; so many to love.

Are You sure it's me ~ me You seek?

My blessed one, yes, it's you ~ you I seek.

Through your love and through your laughter; through your life,
you've blessed My Heart.

Now I long to have you here ~ to have you here with Me.

You simply do not know how much you've done;

The bounty of hearts your love has filled ~

many whose feet shall follow after the path your feet have tread.

If you don't come Home, how will they follow
and find their way to Me?

My blessed one, do set your affairs in place, but ~

There is one more favor I ask before you leave...

Will you bear the burden of pain, all for the sake of My Holy Name?

I know this trial you'll face with great courage and with strength.

A legacy left and ne'er forgotten.

My blessed one, you have My Word ~

I shall stand by those you've left behind.

Yes, I promise ~ both in Spirit and in Truth ~

as you've loved and cared for them, so shall I until the end.

So My blessed one, will you now come Home ~ come Home to be with Me?

I think I'm ready...

All things are set...

Yes it's time, I shall go Home ~ go Home to be with You.

Good-bye for now, my dear loved ones,

but, do remember this, my final note...

I shall never be but a heartbeat away,

for Home is as it's always been,

that place your heart has found its rest,

that special place to hang its coat.

12/25/00

I Love You, Dad!

XXXO Jode

FROM ME TO YOU

"From Me to you, All that I AM, My precious little jewel"

O, Father, how well Thou know my ache within
to seek Thy Face; to know Thee true
to bear much fruit; to probe the mystery of Thine Heart
to not stop there, yet pass it on
Thy Love, Thy Life, I pray impart

Thy Son, my Savior,
through thorn and thistle thick
has shown to me Thy grand and open Door

A blessed place, Thy Tabernacle
most sacred and most pure
Dare I even set afoot
upon this, Thy Holy Ground?

I catch a glimpse of Thine loving Eyes
and Arms outstretched to draw me nigh

My heart cannot contain itself for it has found Thee Home

I canst but stare into Thine Eyes
awash in Wisdom, Truth and Life

Now I find with eyes that see and ears that hear
I listen to what Thou dost have to teach
with silent speech,
yet loud and clear....

"There are two trees ~ one 'Death'; one 'Life'
Each man, a leaf upon the tree of 'Death', for sin hath put him there
But not for long,
for with two branches cut from 'Death' a humble Cross to bear
'Life' hung upon the Cross of 'Death', yet there to claim sweet victory
'Life' descended to the depths, deserted and alone
Whence three days passed 'Life' did ascend to reign on high upon His Throne
Tho' passage free from 'Death' to 'Life' not all will heed the call
For those who will, a branch they'll find prepared for them especially
Notched and grooved and grafted in ~ 'Life' now theirs eternally"

With lesson taught, I pray Thee learned, I ask, "Why me?",
for who am I to learn such great and mighty things?

"I promise to be found by those who seek My Face
with heart and soul and mind....
From Me to you, All that I AM, My precious little jewel"

11/11/01 JRG

REVEILLE

(def) 1. *A morning signal by drum or bugle, notifying soldiers or sailors to rise.*
2. *The hour at which this signal is sounded.*

Roused from sleep
the bugle sounds
the light of dawn
the new day's crown

Called to arms
my time has come
to serve my King
to face the foe
protect from harm
those near and far

Trained well by life
I see the goal
"No greater love hath one"
lay down his life in sacrifice
if but to save one soul

There is but One who's gone ahead
to show me how it's done
with His selfless sacrifice
the victory is won

With lips to bugle my name He calls
to follow in His steps
"Fear not my friend!
You're not alone ~ you will not fall
when faced against the thrall

Draw your strength from deep within
for there you find Me Home
With wings like eagles you'll soar above
the enemy below

I'm Living proof of covenants filled
now I promise this ...
If you do this thing for Me
there's NOTHING I'll withhold

As My Father once foretold, now I tell you, too
What's Mine is yours
forevermore
just bring My people Home"

3/31/02 ~ JRG
Easter Sunday

NEVER ALONE

I came as a gift from Heaven to show you Love
Now called Home, this Love remains
As a grain of wheat that dies to later bear much fruit

This Love, we shared while together
Made true by a much Greater Love gone before us

This Love ...
~ is Power
~ is Strength
~ is Comfort
~ is Life
...to carry you through each dark hour coming your way

I will cry with you now
And laugh with you later
As the light of dawn shines fresh upon you

No longer with you in body
But forever near in spirit
You will never be alone
Until I see you Home

4/11/02 ~ JRG

ONCE UPON A TIME

Life through eyes of the child
A time of innocence
Everything new
Excitement for adventures yet to unfold
Eager to see; eager to do
Time knows no end

Life through eyes of the adult
A time of growth
The sparkle of life's youth begins to dim
The toil of life weighs heavy
Yet with disciplined commitment he endures
So much to see; so much to do
So very little time

Life through eyes of the aged
A time of wisdom
Life has dealt its hand
So many to love; so many to share precious
memories and wisdom gained through life well lived
Time has grown so short

The people in life he's learned to cherish
But where have his loved ones gone?

The children have run to greet life head-on
with eager anticipation of what tomorrow may bring
Today, forever lost

The adults, time-worn and weary,
Anguished by tasks left undone
Exhaustion steals today and burdens tomorrow

The cycle of life ~ is it all in vain?

Our Maker lives not in the realm of time
In His Image we were crafted
Our search for meaning unveils our Maker
Light is shed upon our quest

In the innocence of the eager child
With the disciplined commitment of the adult
We purpose to draw from the wealth of wisdom our
cherished aged has acquired and longs to share in love

We experience the cycle of life as it was meant to be
The child grows in discipline
The adult becomes the wiser
The aged, though now old, journeys back in time
revisiting youth in life's tales told ...

"Once upon a time,
I lived and learned."

1/7/03 ~ JRG

YOUR SON IS WATCHING YOU

The line is never drawn between a father and his son.
Respect is shrouded in independence,
And independence shrouded in defiance
All to test the strings that bind them
Yet the eyes of a child forever glance back to see if Father's looking on
Longing for his guiding hand to teach and to protect him.

Father, never forget – your son is watching you.

A son lives under his father's shadow.
At times he bears it as his burden,
And other times he wears it as his refuge.
“Love me, Father, although I've sinned;
Today and tomorrow, approve of me still.”

Father, never forget – your son is ever watching you.

Father, the days are short when your son is yet a child.
In the blink of an eye he has stepped into your shoes
And has his little one looking up at him.
What is the essence that beholds him?

Father, from the day the miracle of faith embraced your heart
And in your joy it was boldly told
“I have believed and with me all my household!”
It was from that day on your essence became Holy,
For your son to clearly see.
Father, it is never too late to right any wrongs.
Faith is contagious and spreads like a fire.
From faith comes love,
The love of our Father up above.

Let your love shine bright with exclamation!
Because, Father, never forget,
Your son is forever watching you.
In this way, passing all that matters,
Throughout each and every generation.

3/6/04 ~ JRG

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 NAS

SWEET SURRENDER

The struggles of this life have pinned me to the wall
I find myself powerless to take even one step more

There was a day long ago
When You were pinned to a tree
There for me
To set me free
O, why couldn't I see!?

At long last, my eyes are open " I understand "
When I am weak, only then can You be strong
This was Your plan all along

To stand, I must fall
What's right is now wrong
I cannot do this thing alone!

I give in, yet will not give up

There You are before me, to raise me up
To lead me to the righteous path
Forever with me as You've promised
Never to forsake
A solid Rock on which to stand

Although Your ways are far too deep to fathom
In You I find rest, peace
And, O, so sweet surrender
For my soul

8/24/04 ~ JRG

BURNING EMBER

There is no love truly lost

It grows

It changes

It gets misplaced

The flame of new love burns ferocious

Life is Love

It simply engulfs us

We cannot see beyond the flame

The ash begins to fall

As a blanket of snow

Insulates the earth below

No longer engulfed in flame

Life has settled in

Who are you?

Who am I?

And where is our love

From a time gone by?

The ash is thick and piled high

Have our hearts grown cold?

Please, draw me nigh

I pray, oh mighty winds of grace

Blow through our lives

And clear the ash

Uncover for us

The ember of our first love burning

Well kept within the ash

Ready to ignite anew

Our love from once-upon-a-time

Will surely see us through

Love is Life

The Truth

The Way

May we ne'er again become dismayed

10/1/04 ~ JRG

JESUS WEPT

To love so much, it hurts
To want you here with Me
Knowing sure I must die first
So you might indeed be free

From the beginning, I Am
I've known your heart
Whether with Me you'll stand
Or forever from Me part

I did for you what only I could do
I suffered Death
To take your sin from you
With victory won in My last breath

The River of Life flows from My tears
For those I know will never come
The current flows to wash clean the fears
From hearts that to My Love succumb

If you are Mine
You'll soon be here
Where there's no place for tears or pain
Eternal Life's premiere

10/10/04 ~ JRG

IN THAT DAY

As it says in the Word...

In that day, the world will carry on with business as usual
while in the Heavens, a Holy war for souls will rage

In that day, there will be a struggle to believe
and the Truth will be so much harder to see

In that day, there will be signs to tell us His time is near
Signs of nature; signs of war; signs of economy
And peace of mind, soul, spirit and community,
although cried out for, will be painfully translucent

In that day, even the faithful will become faint in heart
and his vision of Christ will grow gradually dim

In that day, our lives will be riddled with trials and tribulation
that bring clouds of despair upon our hearts

Is there hope for us, in that day?
Is the Promised Land,
where milk and honey flows
and pain and suffering shall be no more,
still to be our final Home?

In that day, we shall find our Savior down on His knees
as He was in the garden of Gethsemane,
before He lovingly gave His Life up for you and me,
praying and petitioning before the Father
for the souls He has been given
never slumbering and without ceasing
with incomprehensible, agonizing fervor

In that day, will He find me by His side,
sharing in His Compassion,
the burden of His fold?

What if that day has come?
What if that day ... is today?

2/8/05 ~ JRG

'I DO'

I stand beneath the bow above, placed there by My Father
To love, to cherish and to honor
From this day forward without end
These things I do so promise

My Love for her is deep and rich
There is no greater Love to give
My cherished Bride,
For her, I'd die that she might live

At this altar
I lay down
A vow of love and sacrifice

My Love shall embrace, comfort and protect
As wings surround the eagle's young
That in peace she may lie down and sleep
Knowing well it is her I will forever keep

When it's time for her to fly
My Love will fill her wings
To let her soar and not grow weary
To taste and see what freedom brings

My precious Love
I behold your beauty and wait for you
If you will have Me
With unbroken vow
I proclaim for all to hear
Forevermore, 'I Do'

11/4/05 ~ JRG

INTO YOUR HANDS

~ A SURGEON'S PRAYER

That which was broken has been made whole
that I might live
in Truth, by Grace
in eternity of the soul

In the final moment as The Word made flesh
a prayer of utter trust professed,
"Into Your Hands, Father, do I commend My Spirit"
Then and there He died alone
for me - for you - for all His own

Heaven on earth He came to us
to bind our wounds
and heal our souls
The Great Physician
Forever true to His high calling
until His very last breath on earth
given up in perfect Love and sacrifice

From those same Hands have I been gifted
to bind the wounds of bodies broken

With Your blessing, I ask Thee please,
may I be forever true
to my high calling
resounding loud and clear within my being

This day, dressed in surgeon's gown and glove
I offer up myself to You
to be Your instrument and tool
to bind these wounds and heal this soul
passing through each stitch,
Your everlasting perfect Love

Now my prayer of utter trust professed,
"Into Your Hands, Father, do I commend my own"

12/31/05 ~ JRG

A DAY IN THE LIFE

My eyes are open for one more day
Fear strikes and grips my heart
What will happen to me this day?

I awake for this new day
The Lord is near as He has promised, forever and for always
What is it You have for me this day?

Off to work, that dreary place
Where people chat and gossip
Where no work is accomplished
At such a blazing pace

Lord, You know me best of all
And placed me where I can serve You as You call
To soothe the hearts of those in sorrow
To bring blessing upon tomorrow

Doing time for but a pittance
Don't I deserve a little more?
My boss is cheap and shows no patience
As I slave away to do his chore

The work I do, I do for You
As to God and not to man
For if I don't You'll see right through me
At this day's end, I will to stand

Home again and oh so lonely
No one here to share my grief
I close my eyes to sleep
Only to wake the demons deep inside
Fear strikes and grips my heart
No one here, my soul to keep

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord, my soul to keep
If I should die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take

4/20/06 ~ JRG

INTERSECTION

HIS soothing Love has gentled my spirit
Giving strength to my solace
That I may join you in yours
To be indeed that friend in need

No need for words to part my lips
For there are volumes spoken in this quiet silence

I am here for you at this point in time
Having drawn from common experience
The strength needed to endure
That you may see in me
that tomorrow will surely come

Our paths have crossed
Our hearts connected
Healing and comfort
Spirits uplifted

We may not meet again beyond this moment
Be strong and do take courage
For Love and Grace have smiled upon us
And this we must pass on

8/10/06 ~ JRG

*Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in
the LORD.* Psalm 31:24 NAS

*You shall say to them:
The LORD bless you, and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine on you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance on you,
And give you peace.'*
Numbers 6:23-26 NAS

But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 18:24 NAS

REBORN A PEARL

A tiny grain of sand when new
No real form to call it you
Years of love
From mother, father and Above
Bring substance to your soul

Each new step
In this thing called life
Works to mold, protect and keep
On the wings of joy or in the pain of strife

Layer upon layer
You are naturally coated
With nothing but the utmost care

Set apart, unique and special
You emerge
Reborn
A beauty
A pearl

11/11/06 ~ JRG

OUR FATHER

Matthew 6:9-13 NAS

- **Our Father,**
Perfect Creator of us all, Who knew each of us intimately before the foundation of the world; Who was and is and is to come; the Great 'I AM' ~
- **Who Art In Heaven,**
Above us; around us; behind us; before us; timelessly with us ~
- **Hallowed Be Thy Name,**
A Name above, there is no other. As Your adopted sons and daughters - that same Name by which we are now known and forever sealed ~
- **Thy Kingdom Come,**
The garden Life that as You saw, proclaimed that it was GOOD! Where no pain; no shame; no sorrow dwells ~
- **Thy Will Be Done,**
In Your ever-seeing; ever-knowing; ever-present Perfect Way, the Way which we can, without hesitation, entrust our very lives ~
- **On Earth As It Is In Heaven,**
Letting the unseen be seen with eyes that see and ears that hear, all that You would have for us; all for GOOD and Your perfect purpose ~
- **Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread,**
Blessed manna to fill us for today yet trust in You for every tomorrow ~
- **Forgive Us Our Trespasses,**
As we seek Your Face with whole heart, soul and mind; desiring to walk Your righteous path in our imperfect human way ~
- **As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us,**
For we remember that our fight is not against flesh and blood, but instead against the evil one who worms his way into our very thought and deed ~
- **Lead Us Not Into Temptation,**
For, although the heart may be willing, the flesh is so often weak ~
- **But Deliver Us From Evil,**
Being our strength when we are weak, that we may flee as we should from the evil one; being guarded in the safety of Your Wing ~
- **For Thine Is The Kingdom,**
- **The Power,**
- **And The Glory,**
All these things our Savior died to make ours when in our heart we believe and with our mouths confess that Jesus is Lord ~
(and that ...)
- **Forever and ever, AMEN!**

1/23/07 ~ JRG

HEAVEN ON EARTH

Sin broke the human heart
So God sent His Son to do His part
To pick up all the broken pieces
And bind us with His Love

But not before He, too, was broken
Beaten down and then brought low
Where hell and death delivered
Its mighty, mighty blow

With the Name of Heaven ~ a banner across His brow
Our warrior King slew our enemy below
With this deed done and victory won
Father called from hell His Son

From thorny crown to one bejeweled
Befitting of His Deity
He sits again at Father's Right Hand
In righteous, holy dignity

From His mouth, the River of Life, His Word in Spirit flows
He enters the dark and desperate heart
To wash away the dirt and grit
That which sin has wrought

With health and healing in its wake
And light upon His Wing
Our Savior mends the human heart
With His great Love ~ the perfect bond of unity

Each heart now healed from above
Shall join the rushing River's flow
To sacrifice for one another
There is no greater Love

3/24/07 ~ JRG

DEFEND YOUR LIFE

Old things have passed
All things are new
Eternal Life
Fresh as the morning dew

As the day passes on
Trials come to test and reprove
Dig your roots deep
Drink your fill from the Water of Life
Be strong and of great courage
For by Christ you will not move

With this precious gift of Life
Comes the promise you will not stand alone
Provision made to clothe you well against all strife
Defend your Life!
A price too great was paid
Put on the full armor of God
And boldly venture where far too few will go

Seek out God's Truth
Let His Righteousness guard your tender heart
Walk in His Peace
Shield yourself with a Faith from above
Let His Salvation be the cover over your head
Know His Word by the counsel of His Spirit

With these in place greet each new day
And all that may befall it
You may journey to the peak of joy
Or through the valley of sorrow
But the giver of Life will be in stride beside you
Always until it be morrow

4/13/07 ~ JRG

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 2 Cor 5:17 NAS

Put on the Armor of God ~ Ephesians 6:10-17

FISH FOR LESS

From the day I entered into this world
I knew without lesson
How to put myself first

"Feed me, clothe me, serve me,
need me and love me, too"

So much disappointment met
As all the others beg the same
The wall of need and greed bars us
~ one from another

Then one day was shown to me
The Truth, The Life, The Better Way
My selfless, caring Lord
In all He said and did and thought,
He fed me, clothed me, served me,
needed me and loved me, too

Herein lies new life abundant
A cup of blessing
Filled and overflowing

selfISHness FOR selfLESSness

Oh, so simple ... yet complex

"Be that one to feed and clothe and serve,
to need and love the other, too"

In-so-doing, the walls come tumbling down
We find by grace we have been saved
Unified in our Savior's sacrifice and service
Then passed on
~ one to another

4/28/07 ~ JRG

MY FATHER'S HOUSE

In the fury of respect and honor
I cannot allow such horror
This is My Father's House!

Do not cheapen this sacred place so holy
By robbing others for nothing other than money
This is My Father's House!

Let My Spirit rush in and clear it
Create in you a clean heart and a righteous spirit
You are My Father's House

You are to be a house of prayer
Seek Him and no one other
You are My Father's House

In faith believe that He forgives
If you will first forgive each other
You are My Father's House

For this, no need to rob and cheat
I've paid the price; it's yours to keep
You are My Father's House

Let's all together live in peace
Drawn together by Love of Another
We are My Father's House

5/11/07 ~ JRG

WHAT IF I'M WRONG?

Hebrews 11:1

What if I'm wrong,
and all I believe about You is untrue?

I remember all those times ~

* When I was hopeless and alone,
and I believed it was Your Presence
that came to fill me in my hour of need;
lifting me out of the darkness of despair.

* When I was grief-stricken and condemned
in my ability to sin and cause harm to others,
and I believed Your selfless sacrifice was sufficient to save me
from myself and the world in which I live.

* When all I wanted to do was be good and walk righteously
in light of the destitute nature of humanity,
and I looked to You believing You to be
the purest example of what I longed to be.

* When I was sick or in need,
and there were many who came to me
with food and clothing and caring service,
and I believed them to be Your messengers of Love,
willingly sharing my burdens and obediently giving
of their bounty to provide for me,
hoping I could somehow return the favor someday.

* When I thought of You dying on a Cross for me,
and I believed there really is a Love
big enough and deep enough worth dying for
if it would mean one more person could be touched by it ~
saved from the pit of despair;
saved from the condemnation of sin;
shown an example and role model by which to live righteously;
given a glimpse of the source of human kindness.

I could go on and on,
for I have believed wholeheartedly
that You, Lord Jesus, are all these things to me,
and the very thought of You,
as I know You and believe You to be,
brings a peaceful calm unto my soul.

From the day I first believed,
I have been saved from all those things
that before could hurt me so
and empowered to share this saving grace with others.

So what if I'm wrong,
and all I believe about You is untrue?

As I see it, I cannot lose!
I will continue to believe and be blessed,
and the day I close my eyes to die,
I will be leaving this world a happy, peaceful, abundantly satisfied soul,
just for having known and believed in You
as my blessed Savior

~ from here into Eternity.
(Psssst I absolutely do not believe I am wrong!)

5/22/07 ~ JRG

VOICES

I hear voices in my head
Though I choose to only listen
for the Voice speaking in my heart instead
There my Savior and His Spirit dwell,
speaking softly of new life I can behold,
if I will but drink of His eternal well

Hush, I must be quiet
To hear that Voice so meek and mild
Words of love and gracious mercy
Come, My child, upon that journey

Walk through this world as I have done
Bringing light and healing to all who seek
Gather the lost and hurting souls
Be My Voice unto the folds

"This world could not contain Me,
in three days' time, 'twas death that lost its sting
So life need not end here and now
For I have gone before,
preparing a place for you
A place to lay your weary head
and all your toils and troubles bring"

So, here I sit with voices abounding
But, as I quietly sip from His eternal well,
it is only my Master's Voice I hear asounding

7/29/07 ~ JRG

SYMPHONY OF THE AGES

Age to Age the Music plays
A symphony from God's own Hand
From the beginning a perfect score did He compose
For each instrument He has His perfect purpose

Each part uniquely assigned
Measures holding beats to play
And those to give the player rest
Notes sharp and flat; notes short and slurred
Tempos slow and tempos fast
For each there is a season

Nonsensical when played alone
Though practice pays when joined by all
An orchestra with eyes all front and center
Ready to follow the gentle lead of the Director

Rehearsal unfolds the Heart of the Composer
With Music binding musicians one to another
Playing on cue the parts set before them
The symphony sounds with bountiful freedom

Tuned and ready, the final performance at hand
Fruit of sacrifice sure to bring blessings grand
First before going Home, a celebration feast in finest fashion
Honoring all the good and faithful for a job well done

10/10/08 ~ JRG

DEEPER STILL

Life down here delivers mighty, mighty blows
With no regard, whatsoever, for the imminent woes
My breath is taken and my heart is pained
O, to see the damage suffered by these blows at impact
At my heart's foundation, there revealed would be a crack

The crevasse deepens with each blow
Infection grasps hold to fester and grow
Is this truly what was meant to be?
My toils, my trials - serve only to weaken and tire
Is there no respite from this, my muck and mire?

It is then, when certain life will come crashing down
I remember One Who to His death wore a thorny crown
All for me, He died - a King of suffering
Yet, in three days' time arose victorious
Can there be a greater Hope so glorious?

O, my Jesus, You are the Way - the Overcomer!
Holy One and Great Physician - be Thou my Healer!
As You promised, life and trials go hand in hand
But may You, O Lord, be my quenching breath
Let Your healing flood wash away the stench of death

As sure as the blows of life are true
Causing the crack in my heart to almost break through
There is that Hope that in me swells
As the wounds grow deeper and wish to kill
Come in, my Savior - fill me deeper still

11/2/08 ~ JRG

*"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have
peace—In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I
have overcome the world."* John 16:33 NAS

I DIVORCE YOU

Not as I will but yours be done
I let you go
If you don't mind, for your goodwill
My prayers will spill

I never wanted
a wall of separation
Only a binding Love
for an eternal preparation

For now, at least
you go your way
and I'll stand by
Waiting and watching
for your heart to turn,
to then and forever be all Mine

The eyes of your heart
rest on the things of the world
There is no room for Me there
So go your way
and I'll stand by
Waiting and watching
for your heart to turn,
to then and forever be all Mine

When you return
I will be yours
and you will be Mine
No man able to separate
Together we shall be One
Where I Am, there shall you be
Forever together
for all Eternity

2/21/09 ~ JRG

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?" He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. Matthew 19:6-8 NAS

IN MY NAME

You kill and maim
and falsely proclaim
Such horrors being done
all in My Name

Is this what you've been taught?
I guess it doesn't matter,
as long as you don't get caught

Don't you see?
You have been caught!
Squarely in the devil's snare
while he laughs it up
without a care

His time will end,
he knows this well
He uses his time granted
to draw his prey into his game
by telling the world
this evil's being done all in My Name

My command was to love one another
If you don't know love,
then you don't know Me
So then, how can this be
that you kill and maim
and falsely proclaim -
all these horrors in My Name?

If you look to the world
to find the Truth,
you will see you've been misguided
Instead, try looking deep into your heart
and see if there you find Me
in my Home to each provided

Once you find Me
and get to know Me,
you'll see the Love I died to give -
the sole reason why I came
No longer caught in the devil's snare
but free to live,
to share My Love and care
Do now these things in My Holy Name

2/21/09 ~ JRG

Psalm 37:12-13 ~ John 13:34 ~ John 17:14-17 NAS

LIFE AFTER DEATH

When your loved one has fallen asleep in Jesus
And you are left behind for a time to carry on
Each day seems to last a thousand years
As you search for the eagle's wing to soar upon

Memories haunt your waking hour
And grief steals precious time from slumber
Remembering though,
Your vow of love had made you one by your Lord's almighty power
That no man by his might could ever put asunder

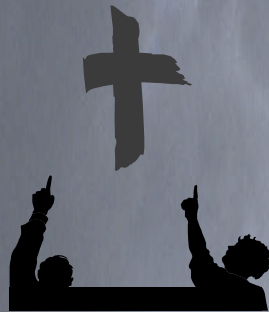
The God you love and Whom so loved you
Is the same God Who gives and also takes away
For it was His only Son He first gave to us and then withdrew
A mystery for sure - His Way is not your way

After a time has passed
When your pain has lost some sting
No longer drowning in your tears, your sorrow upon Him cast
Like a river washing over your soul, you have found the eagle's wing

Soaring now above the fray
The Son of Light upon you poured
His Truth resounds - He is the Way!
Death has come, but HALLELUJAH! ~ Life in Him has been restored

5/17/09 ~ JRG

REFLECTIONS:



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Jody R. Goode

www.EvangelicalPoetry.com

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