

“BUCKETS OF JOY”

Our members & friends were asked to define JOY:

Joy is the love of family and friends

Joy is found in a loving marriage

Joy is giving

Being with fellow Christians

Joy is being filled with God’s Holy Spirit and acknowledging it.

Friends who love us

Joy is a grandchild – or great-grandchild who learns every minute!

Waking up in the morning beside my loving husband

Finding yourself smiling for no apparent reason

Of being a mother to a wonderful boy

Joy – the sun setting over our mountain!

The ultimate happiness with the Lord

God still loves me!

When I make someone else happy and they smile because I did or said something that made them feel good!

Joy for me is waking up in the morning knowing that I’m going to do something that will improve or make a difference in someone’s life.

Joy is the fellowship of true friends.

When one’s heart is blessed.

Joy is knowing that Jesus took my place on the cross and thus the chance for eternal life with Him.

Joy is feeling good about yourself and your world!

The feeling that bubbles up when you are with God’s people

The ability to be happy in heart, mind, and soul regardless of your circumstances.

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A JEWEL OF UNIMAGINEABLE WORTH

I looked in the mirror
and what did I see
But a little old lady
peering back at me
With bags and sags and wrinkles
and wispy white hair
And I asked my reflection,
"How did you get there?
You were once straight and vigorous,
and now you're stooped and weak
When I tried so hard to keep you
from becoming an antique."
My reflection's eyes twinkled
and she solemnly replied,
"You're looking at the gift wrap
and not the jewel inside:
A living gem and precious,
of unimaginable worth...
Unique and true, the real you,
the only you on earth.
The years that spoil your gift wrap
with other things so cruel
Should purify and strengthen
- and polish up that jewel.
So focus your attention
on the inside, not the out...
On being kinder, wiser,
more content and more devout.
Then when your gift wrap's stripped away,
your jewel will be set free
To radiate God's glory
throughout eternity."

While I don't know the name of this poem, I transcribed it from a Facebook video, being recited by an adorable "little old lady". This poem really helps fill my bucket as it speaks beautifully of the jewel my precious mother was to me. And I know she is now radiating God's glory! What a joy!

Beth Thrift