

# **SURVIVING DEATH**

Many times, when those who we love are taken Home without much warning, we are left in a shell-shocked state. I recently lost a friend, and it is a very painful thing. Over the years, I have questioned God relentlessly as to the "whys" of it all. And when my friend died... it was during a time of great confusion in my life... and God chose to give me words that comforted me in ways I didn't expect.

The Lord had been telling me to "look to the joy that was set before me", and while I could see that in one area of my life, I failed to see how my friend's death could bring "joy". Confirming His Word, as He always will, with personal words, He kept reminding me that "the joy of the Lord is my strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

When I dug deeper into the Word for what "joy" really meant, I was filled with such peace, and all of a sudden, what I felt, and couldn't describe, even felt guilty for feeling, especially in light of my friend's tragic death... was now making sense. You see, what Our Father was trying to express was something much deeper than anything temporal. He was trying to teach me something of Eternal consequence. Not merely head-knowledge, but a deeper heart-knowledge.

True Joy *IS* inexplicable... there are no words to describe it., because there are no words to adequately describe the Glory of God's Presence.

JOY, as defined in the depths through it's Hebrew meaning (simcha), is simply the transforming power that flows out of the Innermost Tabernacle -or as some would say, The Most Holy Place - The Holy of Holies. I will be speaking more about the Tabernacle in future posts, but for now... I just wanted you to have a deeper meaning of the word JOY as you read JOY UNCEASING.

When I saw Jean's death, through The Father's eyes, (she had a brain tumor and was suffering for years), I no longer grieved her loss, (I missed her terribly and began to think about the many other losses I've encountered and not understood), but instead, I rejoiced - from depths I didn't even know existed.

We have a Father in Heaven Who - while we don't understand here on earth most times -He still knows what is best for ALL of His Children, and has a special heart for those who don't even profess His Existence. He knows when each race starts, He's careful to pay attention to the hurdles along the way, He's there to refresh us when we're exhausted, and He is there waiting at the Finish Line. God has appointed the time when each of us will cross the Finish Line to receive our reward. Jean's race is run. The baton has been passed. Perhaps, it is in your hands today.

Get some kleenex, you will need it for this one. But my hope is that you will have great peace in knowing where YOUR loved one is... no matter what circumstance brought them Home. And that you, too, will experience God's Personal Presence in a powerful way, just as I did, when He flowed these beautiful words through my heart. If any of you would like a bookmark, you may email me privately, and I will send one off PDF at my earliest convenience.

## *Joy Unceasing*

*Among the cloud of witnesses, there is a great and glorious light...  
Immersed into the heavens, I see His Fullness radiant white.  
I stand in awe, upon my knees, of One so Holy, as I bow...  
Before the King of Kings ... awaiting patiently my crown.  
I feel so humbled by His Presence, I feel so healed and whole this day...  
I see His Majesty, His Glory ... as I extol His Holy Name.  
The instant I was taken from this earth to meet my Lord...  
All pain, and fear released... as I was pulled through Heaven's Door.  
Led through the Valley of The Shadows, I watched you weep and pray and mourn.  
As your compassion and your love reached through the heavens... I was torn.  
But I could not take my eyes off... couldn't focus on your grief...  
For I know that God is faithful, for my reward is at His Feet.  
I suffered in such agony, and I'm no longer in great pain...  
I see Life for all He is... and He consumes me every day.  
With joy that is unceasing, inexplicable to men...  
Words cannot describe Majestic Beauty with no end.  
Do not grieve for me beloved, for I am whole and healed this day...  
I have run my race, obtained My Prize, and I praise His Holy Name.  
If you could only see His Glory... could see beyond the thoughts of man...  
You would see that you're secure in the Hollow of His Hand...  
You would know the depths I feel, that death is not the finished work...  
That there is more beyond the glimpse, beyond the veil of upon this earth.  
Look beyond your understanding, seek His Face and read His heart...  
See beyond the veil toward Mercy, and pluck the others from the dark.  
Concentrate on fellowship, He longs to walk with you...  
To guide you in your steps, release your fears and comfort you...  
When you close your eyes to sleep, rest in assurance I'm at peace.  
All your prayers were not in vain, for they have brought me great release.  
And thanks to you, I know His Fullness... and I pray for you this day...  
That you will know His Joy Unceasing ... as you call upon His Name.  
For He promises that tears will only last for but a time...  
That joy comes in the morning for those who cling upon The Vine.  
Please don't grieve for me, beloved, for I am happy and content...  
I finally know The Love ... beyond the veil that has been rent.  
I have a brand new body, I suffer no more earthly grief...  
I spend my days with Joy Unceasing, placing Crowns at Jesus Feet.*