



Joy in Life Pass It On

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DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.

In 1952, a very special and unique person was born, my brother, Nick. Although he was born with a hole in his heart, you would never know it by the way he filled the holes in the hearts of others throughout the rest of his life. The doctors said he had a bad heart, and medically they were right, but spiritually they were all wrong. When he was six years old, he was one of the first people to receive open-heart surgery at Stanford Hospital. In retrospect, I firmly believe God saved him for a purpose, a plan, and a mighty destiny.

Like many of us, he may have gone through life without mentally knowing what that plan and purpose was, but his heart always knew. He was a wonderful husband and father, and although for many years we grew apart, later on in life he became my best friend and greatest ally.

Sometimes we don't understand God. Nick and I could never figure out why we both got cancer at the same time, and then we came to understand that it brought us so close to one another. He would call me or I would call him ten times a day, and he would know how I felt and I would know what his treatment was doing to him. We spent many days together in faith and talked about healing. We knew sometimes God heals us on this side of Heaven, and sometimes he heals on the other side, but we knew He always healed.

Nick was such a blessing to this ministry and me over the past few years. He came to know the Lord only three short years before he passed on, and it drastically changed him and altered not only his life, but also the lives of all those he came into contact with. On February 22, 2010, my brother, Nick, moved up to Heaven and now can rest assured that a great and glorious, eternal future stands before him. God chose to heal me on this side, and today I am cancer free.

If Nick had one request, one word of wisdom, it would have been to get to know the Lord before it's too late. Nick knew sometimes our passing could lead others to life. Jesus told us how to find Him, and so did my brother, Nick. How can we go wrong by putting our faith and trust in Jesus? Well, you can't. No matter what our need, we need to stand firm on the belief that God will provide it.

It's been a long road for many of us; the good news is we have been given the hope that is necessary to persevere day by day. Sometimes I ask the Lord how long I can continue on. And the answer is always the same—"as long as I give you the grace to do so."

Sometimes we can be so focused on the difficulties of life and waste a lot of time and energy fretting about the future. That is why it is so important to look forward to the days ahead with anticipation and excitement about what God is going to do. There is a bright future waiting for you, so never lose heart; just continue to take the good you have been given and *pass it on*.

STEP EIGHT: PASS IT ON.

PUZZLED?

Have you ever been puzzled about life? About what's going on, why you are here, and where you are going? God has a funny way of showing us things in terms that are easy for us to relate to. Knowing I'm not a rocket scientist, He answered my questions in the simplest way.

One night we were doing a jigsaw puzzle. We opened the box and dumped a thousand pieces of all different shapes and colors on the kitchen table. In order for the pieces to come together and resemble the picture its designer had created, each piece had to be shaped and colored properly. If any of the pieces were missing, shaped incorrectly, or colored improperly, the whole puzzle would be worthless.

I think you know where I am going with this one. Much like puzzle pieces, we come in a variety of shapes and colors, and no two pieces are alike. Our Creator has designed us to fit in a particular place with His plan and purpose in mind. He shapes, molds, fits, and colors each individual piece in order for His beautiful picture to come together.

As pieces, we cannot see the completed picture, but we need to know we are part of one. Each person is created to fit and have a purpose and meaning in the big picture. You may not be happy with who you are or where the Creator has placed you, and you may want to be another piece of the puzzle—but ***you can't!***

You were created with a special and unique place and purpose; there is only one of you, and if you don't fit, the puzzle cannot be completed as the Creator intended. The evening was spent fitting each piece into place, but when it was done, it created a remarkable picture that hangs over my desk today. The Creator knows what the picture is to look like ... He painted the box!

STEP EIGHT: PASS IT ON.

Your Guide to Genuine Joy & True Happiness is a process that requires faith in God and sincere effort on your part. Get to know God better because what He wants above anything else is intimacy with you. You are His prized possession. Our job is to let you know how much God loves you. *We would really appreciate your comments and prayer requests.*

Much Joy in Life

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