

12 May 2015

Dear God,

My mom is now Home with You. This past Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of May in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fifteen, was my first Mother's Day without my kind and gentle mom. It was as if I could not grasp reality because for 61 years, I have had her with me on this Earth—to call, to talk over family issues, and to just say that "I love you, granny-ma."

I asked myself on this Mother's Day, "What really is important in life?" Is it the profession I have chosen that is really important? Or is it the car I drive? Or is it the office I have painstakingly created as a haven of respite when the job is difficult? I think I already know the answer: family is what is really important in life. Family because of God's Love in Christ Jesus; family because of His Blessings on me—a sinner saved by His Holy Grace, Love, Mercy, and Forgiveness. Yes, my answer is clearly visible to me in the everyday and mundaneness of life; yet, family is an extension of Christ's Love to us. Why?

That expensive car will break down; that house will need painting or foundation upkeep; that job will have days in which Hell unleashes its fury; the health we take for granted will erode over time; our bodies will fail us one day as we fall to our knees in Prayer for just one more day; and, yes, sometimes our families give us momentary grief as we live in a Sinful World that is all about 'me', and not about the Love of God in Christ Jesus. Yet, I have my family.

I have family that have gone on to their Heavenly Homes and they have been Singing Heavenly Songs in their new bodies where there is no more pain, sorrow, tears, or heartache! That is now my mother's new Life; Eternal, Heavenly, Without Sorrow, No Tears, Sickness a long forgotten thing of this world. My brothers, my wife, my children, my extended family---all of us have lost our loved ones. My wife's own mother and father; brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles. We have lost much. Yet, what really matters is that beyond the Tears that cannot be measured, we have Hope. We have Christ Jesus and the assurance that this is not all that there is! No. Eternity is our destiny, if we accept Him and live our lives for Christ forevermore.

I called my dad on Mother's Day, and he too, was at a loss for words. He's been with this kind and gentle woman in marriage for 62 years, and had known her for more years before that. We didn't talk about work, or life, or other things that we deal with on a daily basis; we talked about Mary, his wife, my mom, and a gentle Soul who loved Christ Jesus above all else—as it was meant by God to be. This follower of Christ gave of herself to family all her life; she was a volunteer in the community and a Bible Study teacher for as many years as I can remember. How many lives she touched for the Kingdom of God is within the Heavenly Purview of God alone; yet, I know in the depths of my Soul that she helped so many people in so many ways. For you see...I am the son of this mother, and I cannot find materials enough to write about the love of this mother, the nurturing of her children in the admonition of the Lord. The Truth of bringing up a child in the ways of the Lord so that when those children are older, they will not depart from that Truth is the Wisdom of ***I Am That I Am***. I could sing of Mary's kindness and love until the Heavens Opened and Christ returns, yet it would not be enough! As sons of these gentle souls on this Earth, I give tribute to each of our moms that live and have gone Home to be with Jesus. The void of that loss will only be healed, but never filled; that loss will be forever with us, but never forgotten; and, only in the Love of God in Christ Jesus will we trod forward—looking for the day when we shall see our mom's again...and our fathers, brothers, sisters, children. Our family—that which matters most in this life in the context of our God, our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. To our Moms—we give Glory and Honor to God in Christ!

A Child of God in Christ Jesus,  
A Son of Mary