

## JOY IN SHARING

Why do you suppose anyone would use this for a title? Well, let's examine the possibilities. For example, you have a new neighbor move in and you go over with some food, a hot dish so they have something hot to eat while they are unpacking. You gain a new friend and so does the neighbor. You have shared some food; the neighbor is stronger because of you and you are stronger because of your willingness to share. Another example, this happens when you share the beautiful story of Jesus with your children or grandchildren. You have given them a foundation to stand on the rest of their life to ward off Satan's attacks. You have the heartwarming feeling of planting seeds and possibly watching them grow in faith.

Another fall and a trip to the hospital! This turned out to be a blessing again. Besides the excellent care that all of the nursing people & doctors provided, I found some additional people who are believers. I also had a few opportunities to visit with some nurses and aids who were looking for a church.

This is a reply I received from Josh after asking him if I could use his story. Hey Joe, first off praise Jesus for our conversations and for his death on the cross and his resurrection and defeat of death! Secondly, thank you for the obituary of my grandfather. In regards to my story, I always loved sports and figured I would do something sports related for my career. Then at a wedding outside of Schaumburg, IL, during my 2nd year of college, my uncle asked what career I could share Jesus more, Sports management or Nursing? He said he didn't want an answer but for me to pray about it and ask God for direction. I did and the next day was the 55-minute sermon on that verse.

**I Corinthians 15:58. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

After hearing this sermon, he decided to enter the nursing field. This work became his ministry. He quite often prays with people who are in the hospital to give them encouragement. When the loved ones have been there for a long period, he offers to stay with their loved one, so they can get a break.

Personally, I couldn't get over his willingness to help and with such a positive attitude. The question needs to be asked, "How should this inspire you in the joy to share?" "What can you do to be a better servant and become stronger in sharing?" One thing that comes to mind is in the passage above. As a result of our Savior giving His life for our sins, we can't help but to want to be involved in His ministry, we know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. Because of HIS gift, we want to spend our lives with thankfulness and service to others. If we do not want to serve, we do not understand His gift. If it troubles you that you don't care to serve and wonder why the drive isn't there, spend time with Jesus in His Word. He by His Spirit strengthens our faith with His full forgiveness and grace and compels joyful service in our hearts.

One of the nurses came in late in the morning. I asked her if she had any advice for me. She responded by asking if I had any for her. I said the best advice I can give is for you to let Jesus wrap His arms around you.



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