

## The Patchwork Quilt

Many, many years ago when I was a young girl, I think I was about seven or eight, we had traveled by Greyhound bus to Pennsylvania to visit my Great Grandmother. While I was there, she showed me her sewing and what she was working on. She did hand quilting. She told me that she was making me a doll quilt. She showed me the fabric that would go into the quilt. Some were pieces of fabric from dresses she had made for my Mother. I was fascinated that she had kept these small pieces of fabric for all those years and now would be using them for another purpose. As I was thinking about this the other day and looking at that precious quilt I thought of our lives and how they are made up of the pieces and events that shape us. There are the good things that bring us joy and the bad things that bring us sorrow. And sometimes those pieces of our lives are used for another purpose. All are sewn together by God to make us who we are now. We are His patchwork quilt. Some pieces are incredibly small while others are bigger and used more than once, but all are sewn together to make the whole piece. Each piece sewn together make the quilt stronger and more beautiful like our lives. I remember thinking that my Mother was once a young girl who had a Grandmother that loved and cared about her, enough to make her dresses, enough to continue a relationship with her when she was 17 and having her first baby, enough to pass down that love to her last baby, enough to give that child a lasting reminder of that love in the form of a doll quilt. That is a Grandmother's love. That is a God inspired love. I remember holding each of my Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren for the first time and feeling as if my heart would burst with love. That is how God holds each one of us, he dreams for our future and knows our potential and when we fail, he still loves us as much as he did the moment we were born.

John 4:11-12 Dear Friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Lord we thank you for those precious souls who touched our lives and gave us examples of your love. I thank you Lord for that Great Grandmother who touched my life. Thank you for the memory of her love. Be with those who are suffering, those who are grieving, those who are lost and alone. Be with us during this Pandemic, give us strength to endure and to do what we must to be safe. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, keep him safe and bless his family. Be with our staff and leadership, may they be strengthened and may they feel your leading. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Grace Epperson