

Grandparents and God's greatest blessing, Great Grandparent

I am scheduled to go to Colorado but should be back when you read this unless my granddaughter can't pry me away from 2 of my great grandchildren. I am going to see my Granddaughter and her husband and of course my Great-Grandchildren. If you ever want to know anything about my great grandchildren just ask me. I have pictures! I have three who are the most precious human beings you will ever meet. God has blessed me. Grandchildren, seeing them and perhaps being remembered by them was something I prayed about when I had cancer. Now I had learned that God's will would prevail and so I accepted that this may not happen. But my prayers continued daily and sometimes when I was with them, multiple times a day. I am humbled with gratitude to God for this gift. It is a gift I could never earn or imagine. I grabbed every opportunity to spend time with my grandchildren, we went to every place we could, Movies, the Zoo carnivals, parks, the Zoo, miniature golf, the Zoo (I had a Grandparent pass), and picnics. I had a sandbox and a wading pool; we played baseball in the yard, and they learned "Take me out to the Ballgame." (a prerequisite for going to the ballpark). Their parents wanted to go out, I'm there. Weekend away, no problem! To have great grandchildren is such a gift, it is an unimaginable joy in my heart. An undeserved blessing. I was as close to my Great Grandmother as I could be. I remember her kindness and thoughtfulness and how happy she was to see us when we visited. She lived in Pennsylvania, and it was an overnight trip on the Greyhound bus. I would sleep most of the way but would wake up in the morning as the sun was rising and see the mist rising from the valleys and know that we were getting close to Brookville where she lived. I don't know how old she was at this point, but she was active and such a kind person. One time she showed me pieces of fabric that she had used to make dresses for my mother. When we got home a package came for me and it contained a doll quilt, hand sewn in patchwork and contained pieces of the fabric she had shown me. Growing up I was not close to my grandparents except for my grandfather on my father's side and my maternal Great Grandmother. My paternal grandfather was a carpenter and made me a doll bed which I still have and when I dust the sides and place my hand on the wood, I realize that his hands formed those pieces of wood and recall the love we had and it's like touching his hand. My maternal grandmother had 14 children, 11 lived. She never seemed to like children very much and did not seem to be affectionate, perhaps she had had enough of small people, her children adored her. My maternal grandfather was distant and ignored children but was not unkind, I think he was of the seen but not heard generation. My Paternal Grandfather was wonderful and often held me on his lap and talked to me. My Father's mother passed away when he was 12 years old, and he had a stepmother that made Cinderella's stepmother look good. She was my step-grandmother, and she did not like me. We did not get along. She bordered on sadistic. Our birthdays were on the same day, so she changed hers. I never did anything she liked, even eating an egg (I dipped my toast in the yolk), when my cousin did the same thing, she told him only pigs ate like that. Nothing pleased her. Even washing her dishes for her when she moved did not, please her. I am ashamed to say that I refused to go see her prior to her death and do not recall going to the funeral, my paternal grandfather and my maternal Great grandmother were pivotal people in my life. They gave me the gift of their unexpected and unearned love. We receive the same gift from God, it is love, forgiveness, acceptance and everlasting and eternal. Let us love one another for we are all children of an awesome God.

Proverbs 6:6 Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Dear Lord, we thank you for this day and all the days you give us. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Be with those who are distant from their families may they feel the love you have called them to. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry and bless and keep him and his family. Be with our staff and leaders, guide and protect them and be with them in all they do. Be with our church, may we be the hands and feet of Jesus the Christ in this place and in this time. May we serve you in all we do. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson