



Every day joy leaps from my heart as I observe the workings of God. A couple of weeks ago, I awoke with the song “A Spoonful of Sugar” on my mind. God began to speak to me about doing little writings on JOY. After all, we call this JOY Mountain Ranch. So, I began to write.

A few days ago, I was going through my emails and ran across one I had sent to some Minnesota friends back in May. I had forgotten all about it. I had sent them some notes from my journal. Here is what I wrote in my journal on this particular day.

May 26, 2025

I was going through my email when my eyes lit on one where the subject was in capital letters and larger than the other print and it said “BRING JOY BACK”.

I blinked my eyes and it was gone. No email with that title. I checked my spam email, my deleted email, everywhere. I could not find it. I had been shocked by its appearance as not looking normal and was eager to read it when I blinked and it was gone. I don't think there ever was an email. I think I was seeing by the spirit, but it was so strong that my physical eye saw it.

It was only natural that I should understand JOY since God named this place JOY MOUNTAIN RANCH.

The next couple of days, it seemed every article or YouTube video I saw was about JOY. I knew God wanted me to start writing something concerning JOY, but I was not sure what at the time. Life goes on. I am in the middle of writing another book, so that was taking time and I soon forgot about this whole idea.

As I discovered the email I had sent and forgotten about back in May, my heart leapt with JOY. I had forgotten, but He hadn't. He didn't give up on me, and He does not give up on you. When you see the steps that God goes through to get you closer to the place He wants you, you cannot help but feel JOY.

Joy comes from expecting God to interact with you every day. Joy comes with hearing His voice and knowing He is pleased with you because you have faith in Him and His love for you. Joy comes in the realization He is everywhere you are. There is no situation that He is not there to help you and give you guidance.

You lead me in the path of life. I experience absolute joy in your presence; you always give me sheer delight. Psalm 16:11 (NET)

In the King James version the last line reads “***at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore***”. The word for “evermore” means “perpetual, constant, always”. When the right hand of God is mentioned, it is talking about His strength, His place of authority. What the Psalmist is saying is when you allow Jesus to be King of your life and to rule in your heart, you can expect to experience CONSTANT JOY!

Can we say that about our life? If we begin to realize this truth, every step we take every single day, there can be joy in that step. He is there to lead us on the path of life. When we walk in His presence, we walk in absolute JOY, pure delight! It is available to us. It is a joy to learn from the Master.

Years ago, I was learning to live this way. Every experience was a lesson. I was learning about who my God was through life experiences. We had just moved from South Dakota to Minnesota, something we did a couple of times. My husband was from Minnesota. I grew up in Wyoming just across the border from the Black Hills of South Dakota. I went to college there so the Hills were home to me.

We had a house in South Dakota that we rented to some schoolteachers while it was for sale. The realtors were complaining that they could not show the house. The teachers were gone all the time, and when they were gone there were Doberman pincher dogs stationed at each door. Back then there were no computers or email. Everything was done by phone or snail mail.

My mom was checking on our place from time to time. We wanted it to sell so we could buy a place in Minnesota. Mom wrote us a letter telling us about the situation and telling us we should consider selling on contract for deed. This situation had been going on for quite some time, and it was frustrating. We had prayed for a cash buyer, so the sale would not be tied up and take a lot of time.

As I prayed, I believed that God had heard our prayer the first time and had already set things in motion. I sent mom a letter telling her I felt bad that she was spending time checking on the house for us, but even though my physical eyes said it was not sold and would probably be a long time before it would sell, my spiritual eyes saw that it was already sold. I had to trust God and I was not concerned.

My mom didn't understand, but within two weeks from her receiving my letter, we had a cash buyer and the place was sold. The feeling of JOY that came from that was overwhelming. God had showered us with great favor, not because we deserved it, but because of His great love and our faith in Him. He is pleased by faith.

Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him.

Hebrews 11:6 (NCV)

We do not love Him and seek Him because He gives us stuff. We love Him, seek Him, and have faith in Him because He is who He says He is. He rewards us, not with things, but He rewards us with Himself. Of course that may end up being things, but the JOY comes in the realization of who He is and His great love for us.

When we begin to see God, our Father, for who He really is, we begin to see and know His heart. When that happens, we begin to seek from His heart and not His hand! Out of His heart, His hands deliver but our JOY is not in what is in His hands, but our JOY is in our God!

That, in a nutshell (or should I say a spoonful) is why we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Happy, joyful Thanksgiving!

