

**Our Devotion:** “Joy in Suffering” by Lindsey Metzger of Indianapolis, Indiana, a professional writing student at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana.

“Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God’s throne.” Hebrews 12:2 (HCSB)

Death is a part of life. There will come a day where we won’t be here, like an older woman from my home church.

Ms. Imogene was a sweet and generous person. She taught Sunday School for many years to many people and was a blessing to this world. I was serving as a summer missionary at Highland Lakes Baptist camp when I found out she had passed away. I was overcome with sadness and immediately made plans to get home for her funeral.

When my family and I arrived at her funeral, that sadness overcame me again. As I saw it, the world has lost a bright light and life for the Lord. That mindset changed very quickly. Her daughter and primary caregiver, Judy, was very joyful. When my dad hugged her and gave his regards, she just smiled and said, “She’s in a better place, with a new mind.”

Her joy over her mother’s new life in heaven gave me joy for Imogene as well. God’s hand is in every situation, and nothing that happens is by coincidence. Imogene was a beautiful woman with a heart for God that shone through everything she did.

The last lesson she taught me is that God’s joy can come from suffering.

Prayer: Father, give me Your joy in good times and in bad. Give me faith in You to keep me steadfast in Your promises. Amen.