



## GOD'S GREATEST JOY

September 2015

*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*

Genesis 1:31

During a recent trip, I was considering what it is that makes me joyful. If I could manage to pinpoint what that would be I'd be able to focus on such things. Maybe I could change my life for the better. All too often I get wrapped up in activities that don't even make me happy.

And as we drove down the road, I thought further—for no particular reason except to fill time. I wondered what would make *God* joyful.

I know many things give God pleasure, but I think He must have been at His most joyful when He created the earth and all that's in it. I feel He must have been thrilled to do that. Elated. Feeling love for what He produced.

That's how my thoughts were going as I shared them with my husband, driving away from Loon Lake where we had camped the night before. What happened next amazed me. Only moments later—we

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came upon some beautifully backlit sagebrush in bloom. We had seen some of these strikingly golden bushes the day before, longing to photograph them. However, at that time there had been no opportunity to stop. But here was our chance—a handy place to pull over.

We parked the van and spent a glorious half hour with the sagebrush. It was exactly what I had just talked about before we stopped. The sagebrush illustrated God's creation so perfectly to me. It's a part of what I'm sure gives God pleasure. We had a wonderful time trying to capture the best shots we could. After all, any beauty God creates should be appreciated and captured in the way it deserves. We made every effort to do so.

As we drove away I reflected on how very much I had recognized God's joy in what we had just photographed. It wasn't only my joy, but also a reflection of God's joy as I eagerly shot picture after picture. I'm sure that my appreciation for His work was in itself a source of joy for God as well.

God's joy became my joy. And, in turn, my joy became His.

My pleasure came from what I had found through God. Isn't that where we best find happiness—through God?

Lord, I'm sure we could find joyfulness through you every day if we paid attention, looking at what you show us and hearing what you tell us. What can we find through you today? Something to do? Something to see? Someone to visit? Someone to love?

Thank you for your leading, Lord.

marja