

ONE STITCH AT A TIME

I recently became a quilter and it just seems apparent to me that my life story and the beauty of creating a quilt fit nicely together...

As a quilter, I know that many hours of thought go into designing a quilt. Its size, color, pattern and use. Will it be a wall-hanging, table-topper or bed quilt? God's word tells us in Psalm 139, verse 13, that...

“He (God) formed my inward parts and did weave (embroider or knit) me together in my mothers womb.”

He designed me with a finished picture in mind. He saw to every detail, even pre-recording all the days he had fashioned for me.

God's pattern was revealed, with love and precision back in 1949, on the day I was born. I was baptized as an infant and attended the Methodist church with my family. We were not regular church-goers and often our church attendance depended on whether or not my mother was singing in the choir. I grew up believing in God and Jesus. I was under the impression that Jesus came to earth to save humanity and therefore, I must be heaven-bound. As a teen, I remember writing poetry and often mentioned God in my writings. I knew there was a higher power, but He was in heaven and I was down here. *I didn't know I could have a personal relationship with Him!*

Back in 1969, God began to “fussy cut”, cutting a specific design from the center of the fabric of my life to build His quilt block. I met and married my husband, Ken, and we had two children. During those early years of marriage, I met a woman who reflected the love of God. Matthew 5: 17 says...

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

I saw Christ in her and desperately wanted what she had. God was now revealing Himself to me and a pattern was forming. In 1973, I attended a backyard bible study at her house and under a huge poplar tree I gave my life to Christ. Romans 10:9 says,

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you shall be saved”.

On that day I said yes to Jesus and there was much rejoicing. The Bible tells us that even the angels in heaven were rejoicing. The Lord started a new work in me that day and I began to change. He needed to do some “ripping out of stitches”, adjusting my old ways of thinking in order for His perfect pattern to take shape. II Corinthians 5:17 says...

“Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creation, the old things have passed away, behold new things have come.”

With the pattern top being pieced together over the years, He designed a new me. Not only did He save me - - He *changed* me! A quilt top is not complete until the “batting” is sandwiched in between the beautiful top and the backing. He gave me His Holy Spirit, the batting of warmth and strength and I am

backed by the Bible, the Word of God!

Every quilting project shows evidence of the quilter's handiwork and God's intricate design of hand-quilting flows over my life. Christ holds me together with each specially placed stitch and binds me to Himself. Ephesians 2:10 says...

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

I have experienced many blessings over the past 34 years, as I have allowed God to work His own design into my life. My most important blessing has been getting to *know* Him, having a personal relationship with the living God. This has allowed me to experience His love for me in a deeper way! I have also enjoyed growing in Bible study, prayer and fellowship with other believers who have allowed Him to stitch together a pattern for their lives.

You, too, are God's creation and He has a perfect pattern for *your* life that includes knowing Him *personally*, but He waits for you to place the fabric of your life into His hands. If you want to see Him reveal His beautiful design in your life, then please pray this simple prayer...

Dear God,

You are the Creator of heaven and earth, Creator of each life, Creator of *my* life. I acknowledge that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for me. I know that you have a plan and design for my life. Take my life and make it into a beautiful work of art, like a hand-made quilt, that will glorify You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen .

If you were encouraged by my story, you may want to access our Church web-site. There you will find other such stories of men and women who have come to know the same wonderful God in the same way, through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, His Son. Or come visit us sometime on a Sunday morning, and let the Lord begin a beautiful new work in your life, too!

God bless you as you seek Him,

Strongsville Bible Fellowship
13237 Prospect Road
Strongsville, OH 44149
(440) 572-9033
www.strongsvillebiblefellowship.org