



by

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These simple pleasures bring such joy to my heart in the midst of the simple every day duties!

In the midst of my housework, I came across a beautiful framed blessing I purchased in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania while visiting my mom one summer. I hadn't read it in some time as I never quite found the perfect spot to hang it. As I read it, I discovered it was actually an "Irish blessing"!

As I read the blessing, I felt that in many ways it had described my day. I thank God for such blessing in the simplicity of an ordinary day. It reminds me that the most precious things in life are still "free"...such as the beauty of God's creation, His grace, and His love!

I believe that sharing this traditional Irish Blessing is the perfect way to end this writing.

The blessing is my hope and prayer for you, my brothers and sisters: may your summer (and all your days) be blessed!

I woke up to a beautiful spring morning today. The gorgeous blue sky and gentle breeze only enhanced the beauty of the new pale green leaves growing on the trees. As spring gives way to summer, the leaves will soon be a darker shade of green, larger and sturdier. Soon they will "dance" in the gentle breeze of summer.

As I continued to take in the beauty of this spring morning from my back porch, I could not help but notice that God's little creatures were very active this morning. Amidst the lovely bird song, there were many squirrels chattering to one another.

I stepped outside to investigate what all the chattering was about (occasionally roaming cats disturb their peace). I did not find any threat to the squirrels, but instead discovered a magnificent red rose blooming on the side of the house! I had no idea the bloom was there. I believe God has His ways to lead us to such beauty. I felt His loving touch... and received it as a beautiful gift.

I gently snipped the rose, with its long stem and dark green leaves and put it in a vase. Its beauty could now be seen and enjoyed inside my home. In addition to its beauty, the rose had such a lovely scent that graced our home as well.

Also in bloom in my back yard are the fragrant white blossoms on the orange and grapefruit tree and the lovely blue Siberian Iris blooming profusely. As the azaleas produce their last blooms of the season, the jasmine and honeysuckle blooms are just about to burst forth.

I must discipline myself to stay inside and tend to a little housework! I love to open the windows so the gentle breeze can flow through the house. I can also continue to hear the song of the birds while working inside.

*"May flowers always line your path
and sunshine light your day,
May songbirds serenade you
every step along the way...
May a rainbow run beside you
in a sky that's always blue,
And may happiness
fill your heart each day
your whole life through."*

~ Irish Blessing

