

THE JOY OF MY SALVATION
by Deborah Vasilenko Flores
(My personal recollection from the mid 1980's)

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I was a Christian in my mid 20's very committed to following the Lord and His plan for my life. I had come to a place, though, where I felt I had lost the joy of my salvation. I was disturbed about that and entreated the Lord to "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation." The Lord responded to me with this story:

There once was a little girl born to a family of average means. The little girl was precious in the sight of her Father, but she suffered from a disease that would ultimately prove fatal. There was a treatment available that could save her, but the cost was prohibitive. Her family simply could not afford it. There was only one man in the land with adequate resources to purchase the medicine she needed to save her life. The man heard of the little girl's plight and felt compassion. He knew he had the means to buy the medicine, but it would cost him everything he had. The man weighed the cost and decided it was worth sacrificing all he had to save the little girl's life. So, he sold everything he had in order to purchase the medicine for her. Finding himself left with nothing, he comforted himself saying, "At least I still have the love of my family which is my most important possession. But, alas, his family, learning of what he had done, turned their backs on him, and all was forsaken. He had truly given up everything. None-the-less, he counted it all joy, for the little girl's life had been spared.

Then the Lord asked me, "What do you think will be this girl's response to the man for his gift to her?" I thought about it momentarily and responded, "She would be so incredibly grateful that she would want to do anything she possibly could for him to bless him with the life He had given to her."

Then the Lord said to me, "That little girl is you."

The intimate revelation I received from this personal parable to me touched me deeply and did indeed "restore unto me the joy of my salvation." What an incredibly personal and radically loving Lord and Savior we have!