**Grandpa Thom, the Candy Thief**

**Christmas is a wonderful time of the year to be together as family, exchange gifts, marvel at all the beautiful Christmas lights, and most of all, a time to remember the birth of the Savior. It is also a time to get delicious candy. And, the very best candy came from a candy company called, “See’s Candy.” Almost all of their candies had chocolate in them – chocolate covered toffee, chocolate covered nuts, chocolate covered cremes….chocolate, chocolate, chocolate, wonderful, amazing chocolate.**

**Grandpa Thom and I loved chocolate and especially See’s chocolate. It was the best. But, there always seemed to be one problem. When our family ever received a box of See’s chocolates, it was gift-wrapped and our parents would not let us open it until Christmas morning. Grandpa Thom and I thought that was just horrible. We thought it was a form of torture and we did not want to suffer such meanness.**

**So, what could we do? Well, the answer came every time our parents had left home to visit others, go shopping or go to work. When they left Grandpa Thom and I knew exactly what to do!**

**We would carefully clear a nice clean spot on the dining room table. Then, carefully, very carefully, we would gently carry the beautifully, gift-wrapped box of candy to the table for a very precise surgical procedure. We would note exactly where the ribbon was placed on the box. Then, remove it and gently lay it aside. Grandpa Thom would bring out scissors, a pair of tweezers and fresh wrapping tape. Grandpa Thom would then slowly and carefully cut the tape that held the wrapping on the box. Once the tape was cut, the wrapping on the end of the box would flip open.**

**Next, he would be careful to keep all the folds and creases the same. If you accidentally make a new fold, our parents would suspect something was wrong. Then, Grandpa Thom would carefully remove the rest of the tape. Then, it was important to unwrap the paper without wrinkling it and carefully set it to the side.**

**At this point we could see the label showing the See’s Candy name. We had to be very careful not to drool onto the box as we dreamed of the delicious, smooth chocolate melting away in our mouths. The box was white and we had to be very careful not to put any smudges on it or it would be a sure sign of the candy being opened prior to Christmas Day.**

**As we lifted the lid to the box, right before our tiny little boy eyes, was a scene of indescribable beauty! We could hardly control ourselves. Each candy had its own individual tissue cup. We knew we could not eat all of them, so we each were limited to two candies. As we made our choices we also removed the empty tissue cups. Then, we would rearrange the remaining chocolates to look as if nothing was missing.**

**Now came a very important part, re-wrapping the box. Everything had to be perfect – the wrapping paper re-folded correctly, the tape in all the same places, the ribbon back on where it was originally, everything exactly the same! Then, the box was carefully placed back under the Christmas tree where we originally found it. Everything looked just the same as it was before the operation.**

**With the box back under the tree, Grandpa Thom and I would go to our bedroom and slowly eat and savor each bite of our surgical success. You could hear moans of delight, expressions of exquisite joy and bodies trembling, twisting and tingling with satisfaction as the chocolate was absorbed into every fiber of our bodies.**

**Then, most important of all, we had to dispose of the tissue cups in a way that our parents would never see them. So, out the back and to the trash can we went. Then, crumbling up the tissues, we stuck them deep into the trash can, beneath all the other rubbish.**

**Maybe this is not a good example of Twin Power, but boy, it was sure good chocolate!**