

August 2019 Newsletter

From Heaven's Heart

"Perfectly Imperfect" (I was asked to share highlights from my July 6 message)

You often hear me remind you of the importance of YOUR STORY. Your Story is one of the most valuable blessings God asked that we hold tightly too, to hang on too, to learn from, to Experience God through. Your story, when you understand its real value, not just to you but also for others, your story comes to life and the benefits are good...they can last a lifetime...you can carry them with you to heaven. Your story is far more important than you realize.

This is one of my stories. God's desire is that you too will benefit from it.

Hello My Friend Danny,

After receiving your text asking me to search for a perfect sand dollar, (We were on vacation) I began my search. No luck! I thought surely I'd find one perfect sand dollar to bring home for Roberta to add to her collection. Nope! For two weeks I searched. No perfect sand dollar!

A few days before returning home, it happened. I was setting in my new beach chair enjoying the breeze and watching the grandkids play in the sand. I looked down and between my feet was a perfect sand dollar. Actually, it was far from perfect.

As I pondered over the imperfect sand dollar, a voice inside said, "Take this broken sand dollar home to Danny and Roberta. This one was intended for you to find as you searched. This one is Perfectly Imperfect. Yes it's seen some storms and ruff seas and to the eyes of most, it's just a broken sand dollar but not to me". God speaks to us all the time. I'm sure He was speaking to me at that moment.

The beaten up, broken sand dollar reminded me of something. It reminded me of me. Beaten up, broken up by the storms and ruff seas of life. Whatever the reason for the storm, the results are often the same. Storms can bring brokenness, disappointments, scars, and regrets. God wants them to draw us close to Him for protection, mending and restoration.

God said, "Take this one to Danny and Roberta and tell them this sand dollar I created as a perfect masterpiece. Although now broken and beaten up, it has survived and it remains in My eyes a masterpiece, a thing of great beauty, Perfectly Imperfect."

I've been looking at this broken up, beaten up sand dollar for the best part of a week and the more I look at it the more I can see it's beauty.

If you are breathing, you too have experienced your share of life's storms, experienced disappointments and suffering: but our Father in heaven still and always will be with us through our storms and He loves us unconditionally. His love never leaves us when we caused the storm. His grace makes true love possible. By grace, we remain a beautiful masterpiece of His creation, Perfectly Imperfect. He takes the broken and puts it back together again making it more beautiful than before. I like that about my Father in Heaven, don't you?

Like the sand dollar, our real beauty lies in the fact that we survived. Our real beauty can be seen not in what was but in what is; Perfectly Imperfect! As each storm passes, God breathes new life for the new day. The sun He created breaks through the clouds and we can see His Son and His new creation. And life, Perfectly Imperfect is reborn.

Yes, I love the sand dollar with all its imperfections because it reminds me of me. It reminds me of God's grace, God's love and God's power to accomplish His Perfect plan for my Imperfect life. He can, He will and He does if we have given Him what belongs to Him...ownership of our lives. Have you handed your Imperfect life over to your Lord? If you have, then you already know what I am saying. When we are His, truly His, He knows it, we know it, and others know it.

We all want others to think highly of us don't we? But does it really matter all that much? What should matter is what God sees. And God see's His Perfect creation. He see's what we are becoming.

I'm just like the sand dollar. In God's eyes, I've been made Holy by what Jesus did for me. And He did it for you. God sees the beauty in what remains after grace, after God's restoration. That's why it is called a resurrection.

Danny, I'm glad you asked me to look for the perfect sand dollar. I would not have been looking if not for you.

Your pal,

Steve

PS If you are searching for perfection in others, my suggestion is look beyond what is Imperfect at first glance. Look beyond something that displeases you, and look deeper. Look deep enough to see the heart and soul and maybe you will discover what God sees, His Perfect creation.