



REFLECTIONS

July 13, 2025

**You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

Psalms 30:11-12

From There to Here

Here I am. Standing, sitting, staring, wondering what's next. What adventures await? What mysteries do they hold? Wondering if I'll be prepared enough to face them, and what choices I will have to make.

Only time has answers, but my readiness and the values I base my choices on are worthy of further review. A starting place might be a lookback at what brought me from there, where I started, to here, where I am now. Dig deep, I tell myself.

Where did I come from, not just dates and times, but the settings and the people along the way who most shaped me into who I am? And I mustn't overlook the events that formed my views of life and set my life pursuits toward the way I want to live.

The assessment is about discovering how God made me and how He used people, places, and things to bring me to where I am. He walked me through dark periods like the loss of my parents and grandparents and the emptiness I felt. And with the tragic losses of lifelong friends and schoolmates, He stirred more than a morsel of mortality into life's mixing bowl. Cancer personalized life's frailties while opening doors to serve God with meaning.

More than a few times, my journey carried me down the hallways of life through the room of joy. Unlike the room of pleasure, memories from the room of joy still warm my heart, even those through difficult times.

So, here I am standing, sitting, staring, wondering what adventures await. Through joy God called me from there to here. He introduced purpose into my life; and the joy He planted within me draws me from here toward new adventures that will further warm my heart. God works that way it seems. As the psalmist wrote:

*The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.*

Psalms 126:3

What a loving God we have.

"You are the light of the world,"

Richard +

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