



Extra Pieces Devotion

When my children were smaller and they became quiet, I wondered what they were doing. When my son was two and one-half years old, he was being very quiet, so I went to check on him. The first time I checked on him, he was “occupied” in the bathroom; the second time, however, I began to worry. He was still in the same bathroom, but a little mischief has transpired in the meantime. He had gotten into some of his dad’s tools and managed to dismantle the lock of the pocket door between the master bathroom and the bedroom! When I entered the room, he handed me the evidence. In my hands I looked at several shiny pieces of metal. Then, I looked at my son, the little child who had just produced this gleaming pile, and wondered how a two-and-a-half-year-old could manage such a task. Next, I looked at the gaping hole in the pocket door and wondered how many extra pieces we were going to have after we finished putting it back together. (Uh, what was I thinking – “we.” I did not know anything about how to fix this!) I asked my son if he knew how to put it back together and with all the confidence of a two-and-a-half-year-old, he looked up at me and nodded. So, I left him to his project, while I returned to mine (baking cookies).

As I thought of those “extra pieces,” my mind started to wander and began to think if there are “extra pieces” in terms of being a Christian. Did God create some of us to be “extras,” only to be used as Plan B? Sometimes in my life, it seems that way. Often, I feel as if I’m just an “extra piece” with no real purpose for being here. But, is that the case? Did God really create some people to be “extras,” to be used as filler in the world? No, of course not. God tells us in several Bible verses that each of us has a reason for being here. Let’s look at a few of those verses.

In Psalm 139:13 we read, *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb*, and Ephesians 2:10 tells us, *We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*. We are not “extra pieces”! God has a plan for each of us. He even tells us this in Jeremiah 29:11, *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord ...* What plans does God have for you?

Consider the following:

- Do you enjoy children? Have your children and grandchildren all grown up and moved away? If you miss being an influence on young children, consider helping with Sunday school or Midweek classes at your church. It wouldn’t have to be every week, but the young children need the influence of a “grandmother” in their lives just as much as you need their presence.
- Would you enjoy talking to others? Every congregation has members who would enjoy having a visitor, particularly the shut-in members who are confined to their homes or in the nursing homes.
- Do you know someone who has recently had surgery, or someone who is recovering from an illness, or maybe you know someone whose spouse recently passed away? These people may all need a little extra help as they adjust to their new lifestyle. Take time to brighten their day!

- If you have a certain skill, share it with others (teach someone to knit, play cards, crochet, fix something, or build something).
- Perhaps, you could volunteer at a local school and listen to children read or help them with homework.

When you share with others, **both** of you benefit and reap rewards!

My son came to the kitchen to get me a little later. He took me to the bathroom to show me what he had done. I looked around for extra pieces, but there weren't any. To my amazement, he had returned the lock to its original condition – all by himself! There weren't any “extra pieces.” That reminded me of God. None of us are “extra pieces” either; He has a reason and a purpose for each of us.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, sometimes I am overwhelmed because I do not see Your purpose for me. During these times, I feel like I am just an “extra piece” hanging around in the world. Help me to see that You have a reason for creating each of us. Lead me to find the spot You have created for me and help me to be able to fill that role to Your glory. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Scripture references are from the ESV.

Extra Pieces
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