



Want to Work a Jigsaw Puzzle?

by Jackie Abbott

Once in a while, I get the “urge” to tackle one of those 1000 piece puzzles that my family always enjoyed when I was growing up. What a fascination...to see that beautiful picture on the box to come to life when all those strange pieces finally find their proper setting.

It occurred to me that my Christian life is somewhat like that jigsaw puzzle. Inside that box are the myriad pieces of the puzzle. Each piece totally unique, with its own unique shape, formed for its own unique location in the puzzle. No two pieces are alike. And that's exactly how God made us...no two alike, each of us unique in our own way.

Like the puzzle pieces, we do have a few things in common. There are those puzzle pieces that make up the border of the puzzle, and all of those have a straight edge. But each piece still has its own place in the puzzle. Of course, those are the pieces I always start trying to piece together first. These pieces I suppose could be considered as the basic pieces, such as our physical being is pretty much basic: two eyes, two ears, a mouth, legs, arms, etc., you get the picture.

It is those pieces that fit in the middle that interest me. Sometimes the coloration will help to put a section of those unique pieces together. Sometimes the unusual cut matches quickly to the mate. But, what about all these “pieces” within me? Feelings, questions, fears, doubts...how do I make them fit together? Are they all supposed to be a part of the puzzle that I am. What if there are pieces of me that belong somewhere else, or should be put into another puzzle box?

Things fit together quite well when my life is sailing smoothly. There's no fear or doubt. But when the questions and failures hit, what do I do with those pieces? Why do they fit so well sometimes?

What is the problem! Here's what I think...those pieces belong in another box! And how do I get them there? I just remember who is really in charge of my life...Let God take care of these misplaced pieces...get rid of doubt, confusion, and failure. He can remove those and the puzzle that is me can be put to right.

There are still missing pieces, but God will help me to get it all together. I am a work in progress, and my life will be complete with Him. I pray for my doubts, ask God to forgive me, and thank Him for helping me to piece my puzzled life back together in His Grace.