

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

WANNA BE A PUMPKIN?

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?"

The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

This was passed on to me from another pumpkin. Now, it is your turn to pass it to a pumpkin. I liked this enough to send it to all the pumpkins in my patch. *Happy Fall to you all!!*

Prayers and Thoughts: Pray for Nick Butcher and family as they minister to us here in Ladoga. Pray for the Leonards and their work in Turkey. Pray for our shut-ins. Remember all our mothers and fathers. Remember our Military the mothers, fathers and families. Pray for our church and leadership.

All God's Done: *Psalm 44:3-5 They did not conquer the land with their swords; it was not their own strong arm that gave them victory. It was your right hand and strong arm and the blinding light from your face that helped them, for you loved them. You are my King and my God. You command victories for Israel. Only by your power can we push back our enemies; only in your name can we trample our foes.* As in this Psalm we need to be thankful for all God has done for us and given us such a great country that we live in. Like David we need to acknowledge that we should look to God's power to guides us against our foes.

PUMPKINS & JESUS

P is for the People that Jesus came to save

U is for the Unconditional love to each one He gave

M is for the Message that we should all be sharing

P is for the Priceless gift God above showed he is caring

K is for the King of Kings

I is for the Insight He brings

N is for the Nails in His hands

S is for our Savior who gave His life so that we could stand.

So when you see a pumpkin don't think about some guy named Jack.
Instead remember Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords, who is one day coming back.
-- Author Unknown

The Seed

A successful Christian business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. "The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - a very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four

The Seed continued:

weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by--still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil. A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick at his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful--in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!" When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive! His name is Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new CEO the others said?

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust .
If you plant goodness, you will reap friends .
If you plant humility, you will reap greatness .
If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment .
If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective .
If you plant hard work, you will reap success .
If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation .
If you plant faith in Christ, you will reap a harvest

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later. Two thousand years ago Paul wrote to the church at Galatia the same story but with fewer words, "What you sow, so shall you reap". (Gal. 6:7)

We are grass that will wither and die but the incorruptible seed of God's Word will live forever - sow it daily into the life of your family. *Shared by Paul Mosser and Neighbor Jerry several years ago.*

Capsule Sermons from The Furrow:

If it were not for the optimist, the pessimist would never know how happy he isn't.

The contented man is never poor: the discontented never rich.

We are shaped and fashioned by what we love.

Life's heaviest burden is not having anything to carry.

A pound of pluck can get results better than a ton of luck.

Big jobs usually go to the men who prove their ability to outgrow small ones.

He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money.

Wise words from long ago by Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

***Check in with our heavenly Father this week, do some good and disappear. Clay Halsey alhalsey@tds.net
May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God be with you all. IICorinthians 13:14***