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THE MISSING PUZZLE PIECE

It was 1979. I was working with seventh and eighth graders teaching them in a church Sunday School class. At that time, I was immersing myself in the word and reading books on praise. It was life changing for me to learn that praise was a weapon.

It was a Sunday morning. The telephone rang and there was a disturbing phone call. I was informed that a young woman that was going to college to become a youth minister in the church I attended had committed suicide. She had discovered she had cancer, and it brought her so low that she couldn't stand the thought of going through it. It was such a tragedy.

I now was faced with talking to this class about what had happened. I heard the soft voice of Holy Spirit speak to me. "Praise me," he said. I responded with "I don't want to praise you in this situation." Then he spoke to me again a second time and I said the same thing. He said it again the third time with the same instructions. Reluctantly I lifted one hand up and in a very half obedient voice said. "Praise you Lord." Again, I heard His voice say, "Praise me." I didn't want to, but I reluctantly did say "Praise you Lord," again.

That is when He showed me a vision of a puzzle. It was a large puzzle with hundreds of pieces, but I noticed there was a piece missing. He said, "Do you see where a piece is missing?" I said, "Yes." He said to me that all of the pieces were people that had been in my life, but that missing piece was this young woman. He went on to say, "No one can ever take her place because each piece of your puzzle is unique." Then I heard him say, "If you let me, I will fill the void and bring your puzzle back together, but you must praise me in this situation."

As the tears flowed down my cheeks, hot with the grief they bore, I started to say, "I praise you Lord. I praise you Lord." Suddenly the presence of the Lord was so strong in my room that I could hardly stand. He had filled that missing puzzle piece.

Praise is a weapon that brings healing. Praise is a weapon that brings broken things into wholeness again. Praise defeats the spirit of death. Praise is our weapon to defeat the enemy when all looks hopeless.

Perhaps you are in a situation where there is a "hole in your puzzle" where pieces are missing. I can attest to the fact that only Jesus can fill the void, but you have to let him. I can assure you it isn't easy, but the pain will lessen if you allow Him to fill it.

How did it go with the class that I had to talk to? It was an opportunity to talk about death and how suicide is not the way to go. It was an opportunity to share with these young souls about praise and how it would help them. It was an opportunity to lead some to Christ.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 150:6