

You Are A Blessing

**“O Lord, you are my light! You make my darkness bright.”
– 2 Samuel 22:29 (TLB)**



I will always remember my Aunt Myra “Maile” Mitchell. She was a strong, resilient, pure Hawaiian woman with a strong character, joyful spirit and loving presence. She was an important part of Napo’opo’o, South Kona; an integral part of the church and a well-respected “kupuna” (elder). When I think of a relative whose face lights up when you walk in the door, I think of her. For the many years that I have known her, Aunt Maile was always a blessing to me and so was I to her. She had an infectious smile and her *kolohe* (rascal) ways were always entertaining. She was a strong, resilient woman of noble character that loved God. I can point to the exact pew that she sat on each Sunday with Bible in hand. Her presence was well-respected and her wisdom was a living treasure for many, including, myself. There is no other “Aunt Maile”. She was made by God’s design as a blessing of “aloha” in the changed lives of those she touched. Through her abundant love and presence, many were blessed.

In our scripture reading today, we have a beautiful glimpse into the unquenchable love of the Apostle Paul for the people of God in Corinth. He was gladly willing to give himself in tireless service and sacrifice for their spiritual welfare. Paul loved them abundantly and in this, he was truly following the Lord. I’d like for you to think about a special person in your life----someone whose face lights up when you walk in the door. Maybe, it’s a grandparent, uncle, aunt or cousin. Maybe it’s a dear friend, or, perhaps, someone with whom you just “click” with----a person whose company you enjoy, a person with whom you seldom fight or disagree with; a person who thinks of **YOU** as a special blessing. No matter where they are, whether here or in heaven, I’d like for you to think of that person. Take a few seconds. Close your eyes and try to remember a day that you spent together. Now, let your memory fill in all of the details. In your thoughts, I want you to watch closely as you rewind the time that was spent. How did you spend your day? What did you talk about? Where did you go together? What favorite activity did you do together?

I give thanks to God for blessing me with the great memories of wonderful family members, like my aunt, over the years. Those special moments make me smile. Though time has passed, I clearly remember that special day when I visited my aunt in the hospital to find that she was peacefully asleep. Her beautiful, smooth

Hawaiian complexion and grey hair reflected the many years of God's grace upon her. As I quietly walked into her room, I was blessed to see her face again. I stood there and silently prayed. I gazed upon the peacefulness that surrounded her. At that moment, I quietly leaned forward and whispered her name in prayer. Aunty opened her eyes. When she saw me, her face lit up and she called my name, "Papa Kahu!" She held my hand and I held onto hers. Then, she slowly closed her eyes once more. A sense of peace fell upon the both of us. Sometime later that day, she passed and went home to be with the Lord.

As you live each day, think about how your very presence or actions can make a person happy. It may be the simple sound of your voice on the phone; a thoughtful card; an unexpected visit. Whatever it may be, God has given you the opportunity to be a blessing to someone, right now. He has given you the opportunity to express His abundant love in tireless service. Just as He loves us and makes our whole world bright, brighten someone's life today. Take this moment to let someone know that you love them. Let them know that you are thinking of them. Let them know that you are praying for them. Make someone "crack" a smile! Make them laugh and watch the dim of their eyes be lit with hope and joy. **You are called to be a blessing, so, BE ONE!**

I want to encourage someone reading this devotional to bring the sunshine of God's love into a place that needs to be lit in someone's heart, just the way your beloved did for you. Is there someone that comes to your mind, right now? Here's a prayer to help you get started: *"Lord, Jesus, help me to remember that I AM A BLESSING. Amen".*