

This has been one heck of a year, hasn't it? Aside from my baby boy getting married and the election that would never end, I'm writing today more from personal reflection. This has been a really hard year for me (seems I've said this a lot!), but oh, it has been a year of growing up! The best part of it has been my deeper relationship with Jesus. When I think of the deserts I have walked through and the buckets of tears I've cried, I can't believe I'm still standing. Only by God's grace, I am stronger than I have ever been, and my heart is overflowing with love for my Creator.

I decided to go ahead and get the Christmas stuff out and put up the tree. This unseasonably warm weather makes it feel strange to even think of Christmas, but I needed a little sparkle around me. The boys looked at me like I'm crazy, but I have decided I'm going to just do me and not worry about what others think. I'm hoping to exercise that school of thought with every aspect of my life. A work in progress, but Jesus has my back.

After the boys were in bed last night, I hung the ornaments and then just sat back and enjoyed the moment of solitude and warm lights. Certain ornaments evoke memories of Christmases past, and the people from my life who are now gone. I couldn't help but think about my own mortality, and these small treasures reminded me of how quickly life passes us by. We hope our short time on earth will make a significant impact on those we love the most, but the harsh reality is that after we die, we will be forgotten rather quickly. We too, will become one of those memories that appears every now and then, through a song, a certain scent, or by way of an ornament hung on the tree.

My children and grandchildren will never know the depths of how much I love them, and how I desire to be around them. I'm guessing this longing and awareness of how short time can be comes with growing older. As I mentioned, this year has been fraught with painful lessons and division within my family that have literally broken my heart. I can't help but think to myself that these things ought not be. But I am also reminded by scripture that these things have been foretold. My conclusion is, and always will be, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus." I know this world is not my home, but I am willing to do whatever my Father requires. Even with the pain, I have been so very blessed beyond comprehension, and I praise Him with a thankful heart.

I wanted to share a few of my most treasured ornaments, and their significance. I thank you for joining me in this walk down memory lane.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo



First ornament bought after getting married.



Purchased the Christmas after 9/11.



This old style TV reminds me of my childhood.



I am George Bailey.



I gave this to my sister. On my tree since she passed.



We four kids had our own ornament. 55+ years old?



From my Grandma's childhood tree. 100 years?



Sat on our tree for as long as I can remember.