



THE CANVAS OF GOD

God's sunrises have always amazed me; for in this beautiful creation we see God paint the morning sky. His canvas of heaven fills up before our very eyes—His creativity to behold—each sunrise unique in its individuality. Early, before the sun rises, the sky is filled with clouds of various sizes and shapes. As the sun creeps closer to the edge of the horizon, the sky becomes a rainbow of colors. A pale patch of intermingling blues streaks across the sky. Various shades of pinks and gold are laced throughout adding their colors to delight the eye, dance across the emotions and bless the heart. The thinner clouds became a purplish pink in the middle where the pink glow of the sun shines through their puffy billows. The edge of the sky turns a reddish orange fading into pink higher in the sky and often the canvas changes right before you as clouds move into different angles and positions.

His blessings of new beginnings before us; God has painted a beautiful picture for all to see as we start our new day. I can never doubt there is a God whenever I watch a sunrise or a sunset for that matter. We experience His loving care in our daily walk with Him through His canvas in the sky. What a loving Father we serve, in that He loves us so much, He greets us each morning with the sunrise, ready to be enjoyed by all who would take the time to marvel at His handiwork and thrill at the work of a master artist. We are surrounded by the evidence of His presence in our world in a variety of ways—His sunrise being one of them.

One morning, while watching the sunrise, I saw the clouds form the biggest "*Smiley*" grin across the sky. It was so unexpected—giggles erupted into laughter as I thought, "God, You are *too* much!" Then I prayed that others had seen the smile as I had and as God smiled upon them, their smiles would too be an extension of the Father's love and brighten hearts for the day. I believe a sunrise is truly God's "*Good morning— and that morning He added a smile!*" All too soon, the sun peeked over the edge of the far away hillside and climbed rapidly into the sky and as the sunrise ended; our day began!

Cloud formation has been a source of entertainment for me since a wee child. I'm always glancing upward when outside to check out the clouds and wondering what pictures God would share with me that day. It's a game I have played with my children and grandchildren often, and on a trip, one that had often kept us entertained throughout many a tedious mile until we reach the journey's end. I never tire of playing the cloud game for the pictures are unique in their formation—one of a kind and each speak to my heart of the presence of God. But that sunrise—with God's smile spread across the sky in all its glory—was the best of the best and a sunrise I will cherish forever.

As we acknowledge Him as creator of all the universe and sustainer of life, we come away sensing that God designed His "Body—His Church" in much the same way. Each person is unique—formed by God in the womb—there are no two people alike. We may have some common genes, qualities, characteristics and the likes, but YOU are one of a kind and...

YOU, are the canvas of God!

ENCOURAGEMENT: Enjoy the goodness of the Lord and in the *unexpected*, God will bless His people. He delights to show Himself in ways beyond our understanding. As the sunrise blesses us with beautiful lights displayed in various forms and color, may we, His people, the Body of Christ, do the same.

We are His precious creation. I love being one of a kind—unique in my own talents, gifts and callings, YET joined together in His love as part of the family of God; the Body of Christ. May we be about the Father's business, but remember to take time to enjoy His handiwork each day. Amen!