

Out of the Pit

(video transcript)

By Karen Spiegelberg

What is the grossest place you can think of? For me it would probably be a pit toilet as is used in many third world countries. Or in the United States, a porta john or an outdoor toilet.



I'm Karen Spiegelberg, and welcome to *A WORD for Women*—a show by women and for women where we build each other up in our amazing and wonderful God-given roles in life.

When my kids were small they were freaked out by porta potties, and they'd usually say they'd hold it until they got home rather than go in one. Well, they all became distance runners, and lemme tell you that if you're in a race and you gotta go suddenly the portable facility becomes your best friend.

But the thought of dropping anything of value into it is a horrifying thought— isn't it? Imagine you have a perfect string of pearls. It's a gift to someone you love, and you can't wait to present them to this person. You know this person will be so thrilled and pleased to get them. They're in your pocket on your journey to present the pearls when nature calls and you need to use the restroom. Unfortunately, the only facility available is a pit toilet and you have no choice. The pearls inadvertently fall from your pocket and sink into the muck.

Now, just hold that thought. In the book of Jude verse 24 it says, *To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—*

We are the pearls in the muck. We sink deeper and deeper with every unkind thought, selfish act, unloving and untrue word we utter. We even began in the pit with original sin. Yet Christ was willing to come to earth to pull us out.

I can't imagine ever getting those pearls we talked about clean enough to proudly give as a gift. And yet in Jude God says, *to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—* Jesus' blood washed us so clean that Jesus himself presents us to his heavenly father with great joy! With great joy, huh? Yep. No apologies, no regrets—but with joy. And not just happily, but with GREAT JOY! That's one of those things that's hard to wrap our human brains around and yet God promises us this is true.

I don't think I own anything of value so much that I would go into a pit toilet to retrieve it...well, maybe my kids...well, maybe not—just kidding! But Jesus retrieved ME and YOU...no hesitation. No thinking it through. No weighing the consequences. He valued me as a sinner and you, and he cleaned us up and he presents us to God with great joy! Wow.

Thank you for joining us on *A WORD for Women*, and as we close let's take a look again at Jude verse 24, but add in 25 as well, *To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.* Now that's a thought worth holding.

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