

## Now, Hold That Thought!

by Julie Luetke

The grossest place I can think of is a pit toilet. The thought of dropping anything of value into it is horrifying. Imagine you have a string of perfect pearls in your pocket. It is a gift to someone you love and honor more than anyone else. You cannot wait to present the pearls. You know this person will be pleased to get them.

Along the journey to present the pearls you need a bathroom.

Unfortunately, the only facilities are pit toilets and you have no choice. The pearls fall from your pocket and sink in the muck. Now, just hold that thought.

In the book of Jude, the second to the last book of the Bible, verse 24 says, *To Him [Jesus] who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His(the Father's) 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. (sort of like sticking His hand in that smelly place)

I cannot imagine ever getting those pearls clean enough to proudly give as a gift yet in Jude God says, “to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy.”

Jesus blood washed us so clean Jesus himself presents us to His heavenly Father with great joy. Did you catch that “with great joy” part? No apologies, no regret but with joy. Not just happily but with great joy. Wow.

I do not own anything I value so much that I would go into a pit toilet to retrieve. But Jesus retrieved me. He valued me, a sinner like you and then cleaned me up and presents me to God with joy. Take one more look at v. 24, this time add verse 25.

*Jude 24-25: To Him who is able to keep you from falling 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.*



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**Scripture References:** Romans 16:25; 2 Corinthians 4:14; James 2:10; 1 Peter 4:13;

2 Peter 1:10; Revelation 14:5

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