



The Joy of Obedience

By Tammy Borden ©

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." Psalm 51:12

I grudgingly picked up the rake and began in the corner of my yard, which seemed the size of a small nation at the time...

It was overwhelming. Spring had arrived, and the yard was strewn with litter, leaves and pine cones. But I pressed on. My shoulders were already feeling the eminent soreness. As I continued I noticed a chickadee in a tree about twenty feet away. He'd swoop down to grab a single sunflower seed from my feeder and fly back up to his familiar branch. This went on for quite some time, and as I continued to rake, I got closer and closer to my new-found companion.

After another half hour of tedious labor, I worked my way closer to the feeder. The chickadee was still nearby and didn't seem to mind that I was now only a couple feet away. He flew down once again, right in front of me, and snatched a seed. Curious, I set down the rake, opened up the cover and reached inside the feeder to grab a handful of sunflower seeds. Raising my hand to the sky, I thought to myself, "God, it sure would be cool if that chickadee would..."

Just then, the little chickadee flew down and landed on my finger. Its small feet felt like a whisper in my hand. In an instant he grabbed a single seed and flew back to his perch. My heart leapt with excitement and disbelief. Suddenly, the tedious chore of raking my lawn became a delight.

I didn't have a very willing spirit when I first started raking my lawn. But I obediently did it, despite my reluctance. Are there areas in your life where you are reluctant and unwilling to do God's will because the sacrifice of time, money or effort seems overwhelming? He wants to restore your joy and give you a willing spirit, but it requires obedience.

I can't wait to experience the joy of raking my lawn next spring. But God would not have given me that willing spirit, had I not *grudgingly picked up the rake and began in the corner of my yard, which seemed the size of a small nation at the time...*