



## Being a Christian is Like Being a Pumpkin



**God picks us from the patch, brings us in, and washes all the dirt off of us.**

**John 15:16:** "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

**Ephesians 1:4:** "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."

**1 Corinthians 6:11:** "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

**Titus 3:4-5:** "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

**He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff.**



The Christian life begins at the moment that Jesus "picks us out of the patch", cleans us up, and we are born from above. Then begins the process of transforming us into the likeness of Jesus. This process continues throughout all our earthly days. Sometimes that process can be painful, as we are confronted with the mess on the inside of us, the "yucky stuff" that is clogging us up.

**Colossians 3:7-8:** "You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."

**2 Corinthians 7:1:** "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."



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He carves a new smiling face and puts his light inside of us to shine for all the world to see.

**Psalm 40:2-3:** "He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."

**Matthew 5:14:** "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."

**Proverbs 15:13:** "A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit."

**Proverbs 15:30:** "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones."

**Psalm 30:11-12:** "You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever."

It is my prayer that this simple illustration will be meaningful in your own life, and that you will be able to share it with others. It is effective for almost all ages, and I encourage you to "pass it on." A good idea is to memorize the scriptures that are included. God's Word is always effective, and memorizing scripture is the best way to "hide it in our hearts."

Mary Lowman

The Christian Working Woman  
205 N Washington Street, Whetaon IL 60187  
ChristianWorkingWoman.org 630-462-0552



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