

# I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

by Jacqueline Lois

Today as I share my devotion time with you, I took a peek at the daily numbers as we approach a half a million people, all beautiful souls who have died from a novel virus. A life force that was looking for a host to land and thrive and grow with abandon is taking no prisoners, no son, no daughter, no parent, no sister, no brother is left unscathed.

I am struggling with the numbers creeping upward unabated as we all try to fathom the sheer weight of it all. It is easier for me to pray for each person, wondering about their story and wondering if I sit quietly for a moment to try to take it in without unending despair and grief. As millions recover, we hold them close and see them restored.

This hits home my house as I am the last grandma standing for a portion of my family tree. In less than two weeks, another grandmother and great-grandmother were called home to the Creator. Returned to the Source to stand in the gap on a different plane than the everyday where we are left behind to care and do and be our very best. Ancestors of two generations pass the gate.

The sudden and cruel devastation causes me to step in and look for ways to spread hope and encouragement. Love is the best of these virtues in finding the courage to be love.

I hope you will find a way that allows you to sit with me in pain, anger, and frustrations for whatever time you need. I see me and the other Grands surrounded by Glory wondering what their hearts would feel where their bodies fade, and they return to Spirit.

I like to say, we are not our bodies, we are Spirit. This does not comfort me in my hour of need. It does comfort me to imagine how it might feel to bow in praise, knowing the sweet peace that comes when all is well, and all is unfolding as it should.

I want to be good enough to stand in the gap and do all the things Grands could do and keep healing memories alive. Both my parents were raised by mothers who had no mothers in their living memory; not exactly orphans but their

mothers were gone and watching, protecting from afar. I had the most wonderful loving parents ever.

Without Grace, and Love, where would I be? I am blessed to give love until my last breath and ever after. Amen!

### Thank YOU so much Grandma Ann and GG!



[Photo by our own Donald Burch III, on June 20, 2020 at my daughter's home backyard graduation celebration for Taylor. None of us knew it would be the last family gathering with all present. In order from left to right is Grandma Ann (aka Antoinette Montague, (6/5/60-2/10/2021), Taylor Meadows (8/1/2002- ? I am her maternal grandmother and I also delivered her). Standing next to her is paternal grandmother, Ann's mother GiGi (aka Delores Marie Montague (3/3/42- 2/11/21).]

You both have blessed us all, your sons, your daughters, with mercy, grace and love. We will make you proud! Lives well-lived! Surrounded in Glory. Well done, faithful servants! Your labor has not been in vain.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. 1Corinthians 15:58 (New Living Translation)

Here is a link to a wonderful song, "I Can Only Imagine," with its images of love and hope. <https://youtu.be/1v6nljuTeCs>