

## *Introduction*



Quilts are storytellers — remnants of life pieced together in beautiful patterns that speak of baby bonnets and Easter dresses, bathroom curtains and Christmas tree skirts. They help us picture relatives we have never met. They teach us about patience and friendship, tradition and heritage while they cover our beds, our chairs, and the people we love. As a whole, they help define us by holding in trust our most cherished memories.

Even if you are not a quilter, you have probably snuggled under the warmth and weight of one of these wonderful creations. And you may well have come to appreciate the remarkable versatility of a quilt, whether stacked in a closet waiting for company, spread out under a tree to accommodate a picnic, hung on a wall, or draped across a bed. And who could fail to see their value as precious heirlooms, some carefully packed away, too precious to use. Whatever you do with a quilt, it always adds beauty, warmth, creativity, and memories to your life.

In the pages that follow, some of the quilts I've known tell their stories and share their lessons. I invite you to open your heart and listen. Somewhere there is a pattern of truth stitched just for you.

*Quilts by Alice Goodman*



# A QUILTER'S PRAYER

*Take the pieces of my life  
And stitch them together  
According to Your will.*

*May I yield to the pricks of Your needle  
so that Your stitches  
may surround me with the pattern of Your love,*

*May I allow You to order the squares  
any way You want,*

*To pattern me by Your design*

*So that all will know .*

*You quilted me.*



## PIECES

*Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.*

JOHN 6:12



Cleaning out the sewing closet, she found them—folded lengths of outdated fabric purchased for projects never begun and remnants of the clothes she no longer wore. As her fingers touched the pieces, she dreamed of other times: sewing lessons with her grandmother; making her first doll clothes; dresses she watched her mother make with all the fittings, handwork, and pressing. Halloween costumes, doll clothes, baby dresses, place mats—the list was endless. These pieces bore witness to weddings and funerals, church and picnics.

On the shelf in the sewing closet, they collect dust. But in a quilt, the folded fabric takes on new meaning. Squares of life, like a scrapbook, opening yesterday and reminding us that our lives come from God. Reminding us that beauty isn't limited by age or restricted by fashion.

It is quilting theology. God takes the pieces of our lives and stitches them together, working His will for

the good of those who love Him. With His handiwork, life isn't limited to one square. It is a pattern of squares where beauty depends on variety and no single square tells the whole story. They must be seen together—like a quilt.



*Dear God,*

*Protect me from responding to pieces of my life  
as the whole story. It is the same as treating pieces of the  
truth as the whole truth. Help me to  
understand that nothing need be wasted when stitched  
together by Your will. I offer You my  
gathered pieces to be stitched together for Your purpose.  
Amen.*