

Faith Yaena Lee

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### **The Sources of Pride and Joy of My Family**

My family is small, it consists of just my father, my mother, me, and our small dog, Candy. Although we are a small family, we still find content and pride in all of our experiences, actions, and interactions, no matter how small or large they are. I've never quite spent the time to think about the pride and joy of our family, but from looking at my family, thinking of different experiences, and writing some down, I've realized how important my family is to me and how we give each other happiness and pride.

My father is one very influential source of both pride and joy of my family. As a pastor, my father helps lead others to follow God, worshipping and telling sermons at our church. Not only does he encourage us to strive to grow and improve as a family, but he also tries his hardest to help others as well. He also works part-time at a sushi restaurant, making sushi and poke bowls at the small store, because he enjoys cooking and working alongside his co-workers. He also enjoys cooking at home and often creates new, interesting dishes from his imagination. Although my father is busy working at both our church and his restaurant, he always makes time for his family. He always finds a way to make me laugh and bring my mood up and also assists around the house when help is needed. My dad is very supportive of my decisions, respects, and goes along with most of my choices, lending me a helping hand when I need it.

Having such a hard-working, compassionate, caring person as my father really brings me joy, and I'm proud to call him my dad.

Another influential person in my family is my mother, who brings hope and delight into our house. My mother works full time as a Nurse Practitioner in clinics, meeting and helping patients every day. Even during the really busy day, my mother works as efficient and hard as she can so that she can help her patients. On top of being a nurse, my mother has also taken care of and raised me for the past thirteen years, which I am very thankful for. My mom is also like my reliable adviser I know I can turn to if I need any help or advice on any subject or issue. She always knows what I need to do in order to improve, and helps me grow. Although we argue sometimes, I'm honored that my mom is by my side, and I appreciate her constant help and support in times of need.

My parents also take some time to make sure that we all spend some time with each other, whether it be just going to the park with our dog or go up into the mountains for a couple of days to see some bright autumn leaves. They take pride in the fact that although we are all busy, we still take some time off of our schedules to spend time with one another as a family.

In addition to my parents and their personalities and capabilities, my uncles also bring lots of pride and joy to our extended family. All three of my uncles are either chefs or bakers. My youngest uncle runs a donut shop in Missouri, the second runs a huge Chinese restaurant, also in Missouri, and my oldest uncle has a sushi restaurant located in Texas. All three of my uncles work hard to manage and operate their shops.

Whenever my dad's side of the family has a family gathering, my grandmother always exclaims how glad she is that her sons are doing so well and that she is proud that they now have families of their own and are thriving well. Although my uncles are only part of our extended family, the whole family is glad that the businesses are going great, and that everyone is able to meet up at least once a year in an annual family gathering.

Along with taking pride from the adults in our family, my family also takes pride in being strong Christians and followers of God. Although it is rare, I am a fifth generation Baptist Christian, meaning that my father, grandfather, great grandfather, and great great grandfather lived as Christians and taught the next generation the ideals and beliefs of Christianity. Our family works towards becoming and living more like Jesus, and we help people as much as we can. As a family, we work together to become kinder and more compassionate. My parents have supported others in need, share their values with others, and have prayed for those who are struggling. With the help of all of the church members, my father also recently had a church establishment service to further spread and inform others of God. There, other Christians and our church members met, and during the service, we all experienced lots of joy and happiness. My family's strong faith and belief is another key factor in the creation and growth of our pride and happiness.

My father, my mother, my uncles, and our Christian faith have all been sources of our family's pride and joy. My father's efficient balancing of helping others find and follow God as a pastor, cooking, and being a supportive father brings joy to our family. My mother's dedication to all of her jobs and tasks and my uncles' work experiences

and successes these past few years have all made our family proud. All of these different factors have all played a part in leading us to become a happier family filled with pride and joy.