

Meaning of Tattoo

The tattoo has spiritual, family, & emotional meaning throughout. It depicts a dragonfly morphing into a rose bud. The dragonfly is a spirit animal for me which represents emotional and mental maturity; transformation and lightness of being.

The rose signifies my love for St. Therese of Lisieux and the maiden name of my husband's maternal grandmother who was a beautiful, faithful woman of strength and character.

You will notice lines with half arrows along the body of the dragonfly, two on one side and two on the other, but together representing 11:11 above and below the wings which I see on the clock every day and has specific meaning for an area in my life that came full circle in a huge way.

My Core Desired Feelings (A-H) are depicted throughout the tattoo along with other symbols within that correspond with these feelings or represent something significant in my life.

The colors also have meaning, specifically in the rose. **Lavender rose** = love at first sight which is exactly how my relationship with my soul mate, John, began. **Turquoise rose** = constant renewal of life and energy as well as fertility and abundance. **White rose** = marriage, spirituality and new beginnings.

At the top of the rose bud is a horizontal #5 which represents my family including my three beautiful children, Johnny, Kyle & Kahrin. The bottom of the dragonfly has a script S & J for Shelby & John that forms a heart.

The **Inspire** wing has a cross signifying that God is the source of all inspiration.

The **Love** wing has the symbol for motherhood which shows a mother embracing her child.

The **Authentic** wing has no symbol on purpose because to be authentic is to be whole, simple, and free of masks or complexity.

The **Joy** wing has a symbol representing that joy comes from within and is very detailed in its description. It can be summarized as the human soul soaring upward and outward in joyous circles to embrace all beings in its quest for enlightenment.



- A. Authentic
- B. Love
- C. Inspire
- D. Joy
- E. Grateful
- F. Awake
- G. Moved
- H. Transparent

- Rose Colors:
- Lavender
- Turquoise
- White

Core Desired Feelings (CDF)

Authentic – in wing and also depicted by the iridescent colors of dragonflies in general. Iridescence shows itself in different colors depending on the angle and how the light falls on it. The magical property of iridescence is also associated with the discovery of one's own abilities by unmasking the real self.

Love – in wing and representing my love of God, my covenant marriage with my spouse (tail of dragonfly) and the motherhood of three children (symbol in wing). To me, the purpose of life is to simply "love".

Inspire – in wing and representing the desire to inspire others in and through Christ.

Joy – in wing with corresponding symbol that joy comes from within.

Grateful – the dragonfly body consists of 12 round segments with the 12th segment being the eyes. This represents the 12 stones of remembrance set in a circle in Gilgal by the Israelites when they reached the Promised Land: representing their gratefulness for all God had done for them.

Awake – the eyes of the dragonfly which have 30,000 lenses and turn 360 degrees, meaning the ability to see beyond the limitations of the human self.

Moved – based on a theory called "The Dragonfly Effect" which states that there is profound power in the telling of a story. *"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."* Maya Angelou

Transparent – The wings of dragonflies are transparent by God's design.