

"THE PARABLE OF THE CHOCOLATE CAKE"

A Parable Is A Simple Story Used To Illustrate A Moral or Spiritual Lesson, As Told By Jesus In The Gospels.



This is the Parable of the Chocolate Cake. Early in my Christian walk I heard the Lord asked me to bake a chocolate cake for my neighbor who was a single father with two little girls. It was the last cake mix I had and I

knew my children would love this cake, but I strongly felt the Lord asking me to bake this cake for a family who may not get homemade bake goods. Being obedient to the Lord I did what He asked of me. I brought the cake to them and simply said, "God Bless you and your girls." The next day I asked them how they enjoyed the cake and he replied, "We do not like anything chocolate so we through it out!" You can imagine my anger when I knew my family would have enjoyed this cake and I was upset with myself because I thought I really heard from the Lord. I went to the Lord and said, "Lord, did You not ask me to bake this cake for them? If You knew they would not receive this gift with gratitude then why did You ask me in the first place? P.S. Did I say I was mad!" It was not long after my self-righteous and poor pitiful me speech when the Lord spoke to me. Here is our conversation:

Lord: "Why are you so upset?"

Myself: "I thought You told me to bake this cake for that family."

Lord: "I did."

Myself: "Why did You ask me to bake this cake when You knew they didn't like chocolate and would be so ungrateful? I don't get it?"

Lord: "In whose name did you do this labor of love in?"

Myself: "I did this labor of love for You Lord in Your Name."

Lord: "Then why are you so angry? If you did this in your name then I can understand you being upset. But if you did this in My Name then it falls on Me. Remember child whatever you do, do it unto Me and you will not fall into offense. For offense will come in this lifetime but do not walk in offense. I will bless this act of love done in My name and for this family. My thoughts, My ways, and My plans are higher than yours, trust Me in what I can do through any act of love and obedience you do unto Me."

It was from that moment I had learned a valuable lesson from our Lord. I must check my motives, "Why am I doing what I am doing?" Yielding to the Holy Spirit may not always make sense from our limited point of view but we must trust in Jesus and give all our love and obedience to Him. He will take care of all the details! "It was never about the cake, but rather a Spiritual Lesson!"



I believe that everything that we do in God's name begins by the Spirit of God that is in us. We do not do anything in our own power. However, ...sometimes we don't acknowledge the power of God's Spirit within us, and we don't rely on that Spirit's power when we serve God. If we are not relying on the power of God's Spirit within, we are likely to find ourselves using our own willpower to do what we think is right and good and holy.

And over time, we will find that we lack joy in our serving. What might have been a delight turns to a stressful burden. What might have given us energy and hope leaves us weary and resentful. The freedom and peace we might have known if we had abandoned ourselves to the power of the Spirit within us, turns to nothing more than a willingness to do whatever is needed to be free of guilt and obligation. The Holy Spirit lives in you, strengthens you, guides you, teaches you, and moves you. The only question is whether you are willing to abandon yourself to the power of that Spirit within you.

"THE RELEASE OF THE SPIRIT IS UNBIDDEN"



There is nothing we can do to make it happen. We cannot will to feel compassion, or force ourselves to have our heart moved, or work to achieve the power of the Spirit. He arises without our effort - in that, it is pure grace. When the Holy Spirit is released in our lives there is a warm affection that glows in the heart — rather like the soft glow that hangs silently and softly on the horizon as the day of bright sun shifts to the quiet of evening. ...

Just such a luminescence floats over the heart that is abandoned to the gentleness and warmth movement of the Holy Spirit.

"THE RELEASE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS UNEXPECTED"

There is always a quality of surprise about the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is not something you can prepare for, or even look forward to, though you can be on the lookout for it. He is ever new—ever fresh—without the taint of weariness and repetition. He may call you to do something you would never have thought to do on our own.

THE RELEASE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES IS UN-SELF-CONSCIOUS"



We feel what we feel — love, compassion, tenderness, gentleness, hopefulness, lovingkindness, because it is happening in us without our effort. And because of this, we don't stop to analyze how this feeling and our response to it is going to affect our own life or well-being. We don't care about what people will think, we don't seek to broadcast it, we don't pull out our appointment calendar to see if we can fit it in. We

simply feel and respond —freely and without thought for ourselves.

"SEALED AND ANOINTED"

Every believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption." and the Holy Spirit is the anointing given (1 John 2:27) "As for you, the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in Him.." Thus every believer is "anointed" with the Holy Spirit. All believers have the Holy Spirit otherwise they have not been born again. If a believer has the Spirit, he has all of the Spirit, because God is not divisible. However how we die to self and not be attracted to the world and the flesh, and cooperate in obedience to the Lord will dictate how much He can use our life. Jesus promises John 7:38-39 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

"BECOMING LIKE JESUS"

Man was originally made in the image of God but what was passed down to us from Adam was corrupted. The Lord restores the moral nature that man had lost in the garden from Satan's temptation by having the Holy Spirit sent to live in ALL believers. The Holy Spirit has the same nature as Jesus, but His purposes are not the same. He is to comfort us; guide us; lead us into truth by explaining the Word; convict us of sin, and conform us to the image of the Son as we go through trials and suffering. His work is mostly moral, restoring holiness, the image of God in man. We are to become like Jesus in His moral likeness, having His character and bear His fruit. We are predestined "to be conformed to the image of His Son." (Romans 8:29) "For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn within a large family." This process can be at times painful and a learning experience depending how much we cooperate with Him along the way. Trials are sent to build up our faith and teach us to trust in the God we now have a personal relationship with.

"GIVE HIM MORE OF YOURSELF"



We don't have to strive for more of Him, what we need to do is to give Him more of ourselves. "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2 Peter 1:3-4).

"WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?" 1 PETER 1:13-16



"Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when He is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as He Who called you is Holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I Am holy." The only way possible is that He takes our sin and gives you His

righteousness to your account and walk in the new nature. This is done by picking up your cross daily and dying to ourselves. Our part is Roman 8:13 "... by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, then you will live." The old nature must be put aside for the new nature to rule." 2 Cor. 4:10 "We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." As Christ was dead to sin we consider our old nature dead, so the life of Christ can be seen by all. As Jesus said we must pick up our cross daily and die to self.

"INCREASING OUR FAITH / TO KNOW HIS VOICE IS TO KNOW HIS WORD"



To increase our faith means hearing the Word- it is our instruction in truth. The Spirit will never lead us away from the Word but in it. The Bible presents the way to become mature in the faith is by reading the Word, gaining understanding and living it, fleshing it out. This is where the struggle is, our allowing the Spirit to take

what God has said and change us from the inside, so it affects us in our spirit (and mind) first and it changes our ways of living. It is worn on the outside for others to see what we believe on the inside..