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Child of God ~ Servant of God's People

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Daily Devotion



Raw Flour

According to stories I've heard, I once opened my mother's large flour container and plopped my then little body right in the middle of it. I was having a great time making all sorts of floury smoke when someone hauled me out of there. After that I was carefully watched to make sure I would not gain entry and make yet another memorable mess. While I've given up sitting in flour barrels, I have opened many bags of flour over the years. One was pretty much the same as the other...until recently. I was rather surprised to see this warning label on a flour bag, "FLOUR IS RAW PLEASE COOK FULLY BEFORE ENJOYING". When I opened the next bag, a different brand, I immediately noticed a similar warning. I wondered two things. One, what lawsuit started this warning? Two, who eats raw flour? I pictured someone looking into a freshly opened bag of flour with their spoon in their hand and a big smile on their face as they prepared to devour this delicious delicacy known as raw flour. How ridiculous! Then I got to some God led thinking.

I thought about the many times I had eaten raw flour and about the many times I had allowed my children and husband to do the same. It is actually very tasty! While we have never eaten it right out of the bag, we have eaten it uncooked in cookie dough and cake batter. God's Holy Spirit directed me to Romans 8:28, "**And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**" You see, I would never eat raw flour, raw eggs, baking soda or most of the other ingredients in a batch of cookies all by themselves. If I had to eat any of the ingredients raw, I could choke down a bit of the brown sugar, but even that is not something I'd enjoy much of all by itself; however, if you mix all of those things **together**, well, that becomes a different story. I have playfully smacked the hands of many a dough stealer and then grabbed my own spoon to commit the same crime!

God and I then spent some time in my thinking chair. He made me realize that many of the individual ingredients in my life were pretty raw and distasteful, perhaps even dangerous in some cases. Yet, God has used so many of those things to teach me to rely on Him rather than myself. "**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.**" Proverbs 3:5. During the most bitter times, when realities, such as finding out I had been diagnosed with ms, He taught me, "**For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**" II Corinthians 12:10. When friends have disappointed me, I've been reminded of the only PERFECT FRIEND any of us will ever have, Jesus Christ. "**Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**" John 15:13.

All of these things have worked together for my good, even though tear producing short sighted eyes have often found them to be hard to bear at the time—as tough to choke down as raw flour in a spoon because all I could see, taste and feel at that moment was that one isolated event. I didn't know how God was going to use that one ingredient in my life to mix with other ingredients to bring me to the point where I would again, joyfully proclaim the words of Psalm 34:8, "**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!**" All along, God has had the recipe for my life. His grace and His love have always been the key ingredients. By His Spirit given gift of faith, I will, by more of His grace, trust Him to do as He has promised, "**And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**"

But for now, I remain half baked!

By Elaine Bickel