

Daily Devotional

April 13, 2005

(Contributed by Larry Goodin)

Theme: God's Recipe For Life

Text: Romans 8:28

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Thought: As a child, I remember my mother baking cookies, and allowing me to lick the spoon and clean out the bowl when she was finished. I was surprised to see the diversity of ingredients that go into cookies: There was flour, eggs, salt, and baking soda; and depending on the kind of cookie, there may have been oatmeal, chocolate chips, and some kind of sweetener. If I had a chance, I may have eaten a spoon full of sugar, or a handful of raisins. But many of the ingredients would have been pretty nasty by themselves. There's no way I would have eaten a spoon full of salt. That would be too bitter! A cup of flour would not only be hard to get down, but wouldn't have much taste. A raw egg may turn my stomach. But, when mom mixed them all together, they formed into delicious cookie dough. It was good enough to eat, even before it was put on the pan to be baked.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why, God, are you letting me go through so many struggles and difficulties in life?" Why must I encounter bitter times? When going through the challenges of life, I have often drawn comfort and strength from Romans 8:28. Just as my mother mixed, what seemed to be unpleasant ingredients in with the good ones, God mixes up the experiences of life, and causes good things to come out of all of them. Not all of what happens in life is good. But, God causes ALL THINGS to work out for our good, if we love him, and are seeking his purpose in our lives. It may appear that the experiences of life are too much for us to bear. But God is at work during our "bad" experiences as much as he is in our pleasant ones. I can now look back on some of the more difficult situations in life, and see that God was always in control, even though I was totally out of control. He made me stronger as I struggled with my weaknesses. My faith in him increased as I realized my own frailty.

Prayer: "Dear God, help me to realize you are greater than any problem or situation I may ever encounter. Even when I can't see the purpose in my struggles, let me feel your presence, and rely on your power to get me through. I pray that I will love you with all of my heart, and look for your purpose in my life."

Reflection:

Do you find it hard to let go, and to let God? We don't always know what the future holds, but we do know WHO holds the future. Don't get hung up on the ingredients of life. Let God mix them together in His infinite wisdom and power. He is trying to create something wonderful in your life. He is the one who has the true recipe for life. Don't mess up the cookies by trying to remove a necessary ingredient