



Dear Neighbour,

Have you noticed how recipe books contain predominantly photographs of the *end product*? This fact serves an important purpose: the magnificent images are designed to inspire us to open our pantries and fill our kitchen counters with the myriad of ingredients that will be needed in order to re-create what we have seen with our eyes.

In the same way, God has a glorious final image of your life in His mind. You are destined to be like Jesus Christ, God's Son. The following two versions of the same scripture confirm this fact:

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren
(Romans 8:29 ESV).

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him (Romans 8:29 The Message).

However, before the glorious final image appears a lot of work needs to take place, involving a great variety of ingredients. Herein lies our problem: The events of life are like the ingredients required to transform us. Ingredients like cream, milk, sugar and strawberries are enjoyable on their own but ingredients such as flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt, to name a few, are extremely unpalatable in isolation. Personally, I am experiencing an “unpalatable” period in my life (fourteen months and still not at an end!) during which I am dealing with an open wound. God’s Word has taught me how to view the unpleasant events of life and the answer is to be found in the previous verse:

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose
(Romans 8:28 NKJV).

As the ‘Divine Baker’, God promises to use ALL the events of your life, both pleasant and unpalatable, and bring them together in a glorious mix, at the right time and exactly in the correct proportions to make you into a glorious creation! Notice this promise is ONLY for those “who love God”. Once you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, God will combine all the experiences of your life (pre-conversion and post-conversion!) and work them “together” for His glory and for our good. What an amazing and precious promise!

Dear friends, do not be impatient (as many bakers are) and try to take your cake out of the oven too early. Under-cooked cakes are always a disappointment. They both taste and look bad. Patiently allow God to have His perfect way in your life. Be encouraged that “unpalatable” events in your life will prove to be *indispensable ingredients* – a cake without baking powder would never rise to great heights! God is at work in your life and one only judges a baker by the end result!

x Libby