



she loves

Devotional
January 25, 2010

ARE YOU DONE INSIDE?

Dear Friends,

Which frying pan are you in today? We are all in some kind of frying pan – some situation that makes us feel uncomfortable at best and burning hot at worst.

On the first evening of Prayer Week, I asked God what posture he wanted me in, what attitude he wanted my heart to adopt. I saw a picture in my mind, so bazaar, it had to be from him. I have since tested it and yes I do believe it was his answer to my question.

I saw a frying pan with a pancake in the middle. It was nicely browned on both sides and seemed ready to take out and eat, but it wasn't. It was gooey inside and needed to stay in the heat a bit longer. I believe God was saying that he wasn't finished using the situations I'm in to make me whole and fully mature inside. Was I going to try to get out of them or was I willing to trust God to work his best in me no matter how long it took? That's a rough decision to make. It's our human nature to want things to be easy and pleasant.

I had the privilege of attending some lectures on change last week. We tend to think of change as bad, as something to be avoided at all costs. And yet it is only through change that we shed our sinful nature and put on Christ's nature.

Here's an example of what I mean:

1. We are comfortable in our inactivity and conserve physical energy whenever possible.
2. One day the area around our heart starts to ache a little. But we can live with it.
3. A month goes by and the pain increases. So we take some medication to ease the discomfort.
4. A half a year later, while walking up the stairs (the elevator was broken), a severe throbbing in our chest crumples us to the ground and we are rushed to the hospital.
5. Upon understanding that inactivity contributed to the awful pain, we determine to get more exercise and decrease the chances that it will happen again.

Most often it takes pain to motivate change. I know you didn't want to hear that anymore that I wanted to write it, but I believe it's true. The frying pans we are in are being used by God to change us from the inside out.

BEV: Oh gracious Father, have mercy on us feeble humans. You promise to be with us in our troubles, holding us, guarding us, and growing us. You know how often I have asked to be rescued from situations I find myself in. Yet you ask me to trust you in them.

ANSWER: And don't ever think that I have stopped loving you just because you are in the frying pan. Remember the truth from **Romans 8:35-37 (NLT)** *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.*

BEV: Thank you Jesus for dying in my place, for making it possible for me to be changed and repaired and renewed. And thank you that you keep on empowering me to change through your Holy Spirit ... even if you use frying pan situations to accomplish it.

ANSWER: Look at me Bev, and keep looking at me through it all. You will see my love for you in my eyes. My love will never diminish. You can count on it.

I urge you to take time to talk with God about your frying pans. Name them, accept them, and then let God make the most of them in your life. I'm praying for you.

Blessings from Bev



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