

To Have A Victorious Christian Life

On a box of dry pasta in my family's kitchen is a little label that I've found interesting.

A whole box of pasta made from ONE ingredient?!

Sounds crazy, right?

But it's not.

Our One Ingredient - flour and eggs scattered on table before bread baking

Just like the pasta, we as Christians also have our own special ingredient to keep us together spiritually!

When I saw the fact that this whole box of pasta was put together by one ingredient, it made me think about how we as Christians are also like that pasta.

Except what keeps us together isn't flour—as is the case for the pasta—but rather the Holy Spirit.

It's like how Paul put it in Romans chapter 8 verse 26:

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. (Romans 8:26)

The Holy Spirit is the one who "helps" us when we're weak.

What does that word "helps" mean?

Well, that little word "helps" comes from the big Greek word *synantilambanomai* (looks like a mouth-full, doesn't it?). It means "to take hold with at the side."

And in a similar way, the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness. (Romans 8:26)

How Does This Apply To Us?

Just like that whole pasta is made up and held together by that one simple ingredient of whole grain flour, we as Christians are also SPIRITUALLY "made up" and "held together" by the Holy Spirit's power!

If so, I'd like to encourage you to just pray:

Restoration Through Destruction

Nahum 2:2 says: For the Lord will restore the excellence of Jacob

Like the excellence of Israel... (Nahum 2:2)

What does that mean?

Well, first I'd like to take a close look at that word "excellence."

Defining Excellence

The world defines "excellence" as a prize or reward. But how does God define excellence?

That word "excellence" comes from the Hebrew word *ga'own*. It means "glory."

Now, that definition for the Hebrew word for “excellence” reminds me of Colossians 1:27, which says:

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)

What could this all mean for us?

Defining Restoration

Based on Nahum 2:2, HOW will God restore His glory in us as we seek to run after Him?

Nahum 2:2 says that God will “RESTORE the excellence of Jacob like the excellence of Israel,” and we’ve now just learned that the word “excellence” means “glory.”

As an application for us, God also wants to do a similar work in us and restore the glory of Jesus’ character in our own hearts.

But HOW does God restore such pure glory back into us as sinful human beings?

I believe this Bible commentary can easily help answer that question:

“The excellency of Jacob may be regarded as.....now being restored through the destruction of the Assyrians.”

(SDA BIBLE COMMENTARY VOL. 4 PG. 1039, emphasis added)

What can we learn from all this?

Just like the “excellence” of Jacob—or the “glory” of Jacob—was restored through the destruction of Assyria, so Christ’s glory (His character) is restored in each of us through the destruction of our selfish selves.

Do you feel deep in your heart how hard it is for you to truly yield to the Holy Spirit’s refining fire?

I’d like to conclude this with a powerful statement from the devotional book, To Be Like Jesus:

It is coming in contact with difficulties that will give you spiritual muscle and sinew. You will become strong in Christ if you endure the testing process and the proving of God. But if you find fault with your situation and with everybody around you, you will only grow weaker. I have seen people who were always finding fault with everything and everybody around them, but the fault was in themselves. They had need to fall upon the Rock and be broken. They felt whole in their own self-righteousness. The trials that come upon us come to prove us. The enemy of our souls is working against us continually, but our defects of character will be made manifest to us, and when they are made plain, instead of finding fault with others, let us say, “I will arise and go to my Father.” (To be Like Jesus pg. 210 paragraph 4)

Amen! Maranatha!