

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Food for Thought

Have you ever tried to make banana bread without some of the ingredients? The first time I retrieved it from the oven, I remembered that I had forgotten the baking soda...no leavening, no rising. The second time I stood musing in front of the oven (wondering why I had this vacant-stare-type feeling), I remembered I'd forgotten (can you believe it?) the flour. No wonder it looked soupy.

"Things not going so well this morning, Mom?" asked a voice from the "sidelines."

"Don't you have to go to school or something?" I grumbled, as I dumped the whole mess back into the mixing bowl. A more sane person would have decided against banana bread for the day; but, then, I must have a stubborn streak in me because, when the voice asked what I was already contemplating...

"Why don't ya give it up?"

I replied in my most philosophical and superior tones, "Because, sometimes, you have to keep plugging away at things before anything good comes of it."

What I didn't say was, "But, sometimes, how I wish someone else was making this bread"...like way back in Moses' time...

"For then the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you;'"...

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[Ex. 16:4]

Though, come to think of it, even they had to work for it...

"...and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day."

[Ex. 16:4]

and even that bread had its problems:

"Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died", [John 6:49]

said Jesus.

So, like a gourmet cook yearning for the perfect recipe, I went in search of "something more"...and found that even the most perfect food takes work.

"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life." [John 6:27]

And, with that, the pitter-patter of more tiny feet found their way to my side. "Momma, are we gonna get any 'manna' bread?" asked a wee voice.

"Sure, honey," I replied as I poured the dough back into the pan, "but for any bread worth having, you have to work at it...and have a little faith..."; and as it went into the oven, again, I couldn't help but think, "and thank the good Lord we're given so many chances at getting it right'."

Written, August 25, 1979.