

Raising spiritual children on solid food and not "sweets"...

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, (4) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Ask any parent if they give their children sweets at every meal, if they just leave the real food in the fridge and feed the children sweets every meal as it seems the children prefer that... You will get the same response over and over... Never...

A parent knows a child needs real solid food to grow and survive, that if they feed their children only sweets they will grow up malnourished and most probably sickly, and when disease comes that child will most probably not survive as their bodies does not have anything it needs to build up an immune system and to have the strength to survive disease. This seems like a logical thing to understand.

Sad to say this principle does not come as natural for some spiritual "fathers", shepherds and flock leaders. Why do I say this...?

We see the "sweet" principle popping up, rearing its ugly head from time to time... Pastors, teachers, leaders handing out sweets to their flock, not giving any solid food, never guiding, never correcting, never rebuking, never teaching about holiness, repentance, sin, deliverance from sin, stewardship, maturity, responsibility etc..

Just feeding the flock what they want to eat, motivational speakers telling them everything is going to be okay, just take another impartation, have another team building retreat, do yet another course in twelve steps to this and forty steps to that for the sweeties, feeding them useless facts while they know nothing about the basic principles of repentance and holiness, that which is easy to chew, easy to digest and sweet in the mouth is what seems to keep the pews full... for a while...

But you see then a bump in the road comes, God takes that person out of that congregation to work in their lives or moves them to another town or something happens that challenges their faith and what happens? Their spiritual immune system shuts down... It has no "weapons" to fight, no way to survive because it has over the years slowly but surely been poisoned and rendered useless by piles and piles of sweets...

That person falls and can't get up, they have nothing to cling to, no hope, no chance, for the One they thought they were serving -by guzzling piles of sweets- they don't know at all, they don't know or recognize His voice when He speaks

and they fall to the wayside, feeling abandoned, feeling that God has forgotten them and they backslide... more and more... until they realize that the world also has sweeties to offer them, stuff that will make them feel good about themselves like the sweeties there pastor fed them, stuff like alcohol, drugs, fornication.. More and more they eat the world's sweeties and more and more they become blinded to Christ reaching out His hand to them waiting for them to see Him, waiting so He can pick them up.

And their lives end as tragic in most cases...

But all this sadness could have been avoided... If they were only rooted on the Rock while they were children in the faith, if only they were fed solid food... Solid food, real food is always harder to digest, it challenges you, it changes you, it nurtures you and it grows you, makes you stronger, makes you better, makes you ready for anything to come... For then when a shaking comes, when a bump in the road comes you might fall but you will get up again, you might struggle but you will not stop, you might cry but you will not turn your back on Him, because you will know His voice, you will know His guidance, you will know where to step for you will be stepping in His footsteps...

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Hebrews 5:11-14 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. (12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, (13) for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. (14) But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Mark 4:14-20 The sower sows the word. (15) And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. (16) And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. (17) And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. (18) And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, (19) but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. (20) But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

How can we sow seed that will last and become fruitful if the ground is never tilled? How can we utilize tilled ground if we sow futile seed?

Some take where Paul says -that he becomes all things to all men that at least he may save a few- so totally out of proportion with the bible that they think anything done labelled as "Christian" will end well... It doesn't matter what

useless seed we sow, how much sweets we plant expecting a crop of wheat to come up, it will still just be rotting sweets in the ground, not a wheat plant waiting to shoot through and bring a crop.

James 3:1 NOT MANY [of you] should become teachers my brethren, for you know that we [teachers] will be judged by a higher standard {and} with greater severity [than other people; thus we assume the greater accountability and the more condemnation].

Hebrews 10:26-31 (Amp) ²⁶For if we go on deliberately and willingly sinning after once acquiring the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice left to atone for [our] sins [no further offering to which to look forward].
²⁷[There is nothing left for us then] but a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God].²⁸Any person who has violated and [thus] rejected and set at naught the Law of Moses is put to death without pity or mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much worse (sterner and heavier) punishment do you suppose he will be judged to deserve who has spurned and [thus] trampled underfoot the Son of God, and who has considered the covenant blood by which he was consecrated common and unhallowed, thus profaning it and insulting and outraging the [Holy] Spirit [Who imparts] grace (the unmerited favor and blessing of God)? ³⁰For we know Him Who said, Vengeance is Mine [retribution and the meting out of full justice rest with Me]; I will repay [I will exact the compensation], says the Lord. And again, The Lord will judge and determine and solve and settle the cause and the cases of His people. ³¹It is a fearful (formidable and terrible) thing to incur the divine penalties and be cast into the hands of the living God!

Let us not create a next generation of spiritual sons and daughters that are anaemic in the spirit due to living on sweets instead of being fed solid food. Let us not call bad good and good bad, let us not abuse the gift of grace claiming it as an excuse to sin, let us not teach others that their own will's come above the will of God, let us not create fearful, unstable children that will not know their Fathers voice from their enemies voice because they are taught to look and pray and seek for gifts and sweets instead of for growth and solid food and guidance.

Let us take up this calling with fear and trembling knowing that what we do to His bride is seen by Him at all times and that it is His church, not ours, His congregation, not ours, His spiritual children, not ours, His anointing, not ours... So that we may truly speak His words, not ours...

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