

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY: THE ALABASTER BOX** ~ Do not keep the alabaster box of your love and friendship sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier. The kind things you means to say when they are gone, say before they go. ~ George W. Childs



One day while visiting with my granddaughter Shelly, and my great granddaughter Mira, I walked into the kitchen about the time Shelly had given Mira a cookie (one of her favorite). I'm always looking for interesting poses, so I grabbed my camera and took several pictures. Mira's last pose sent us into gales of laughter, as Shelly advanced toward Mira with her hand out and asked Mira if she could have her cookie, hence the (second) look. She wasn't

giving her cookie up—not to anyone—no way! Later, I downloaded my camera onto my computer and forgot about them.

One day while looking for a certain picture, I came across these two pictures. I laughed when I saw them as I remember Mira's reaction to Shelly trying to get her cookie. Reflecting on the first picture, suddenly, and I do love God's suddenlys, Psalm 34:8 came to mind which reads, "*Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*" Mira was totally into eating and enjoying her cookie. She was in her own little heaven and nothing else mattered.

Psalm 119:103 reads, "*How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!*" The Bible is full of God's promises that are sweet to our soul and bring comfort and strength, as we take the time to savor each bite, each morsel. The Word of God will meet every need and satisfy the soul. It is meat to the spirit.

I reflected on some of the times that I too, had savored the goodness of the Lord. As I came into His sweet presence, it was like being treated to a "supper dooper, humdinger" banana split with my favorite toppings, overflowing with whipped cream and covered with nuts AND refills available!

We soak in His wonderous love, His peace, His joy and as we let the Lord pour favor over us; we bask in His glory. Often His sweet presence comes in the midst of fiery battles or the lowest tide of a life

situation, God always knows what we need and He is faithful to supply. We do not earn his favor or merit his sweet presence through our works, He gives it freely because of His great love for His children.

Now Satan comes along too, and tries to steal away what God is giving to His children. He hate it when we place our trust in God and His love for us, and the enemy will undermine the things of God in every way that he can. We undergo traumas throughout our lifetime that imprint in our memory system. Traumas can produce emotional distresses and anxieties, fears, failure mentality, confusion, deadness, apathy and doubts. And when not processed properly, they will shape your world from a negative point of view, thus stealing our strength, our hope, our future. Remember, the enemy doesn't play the game of life fairly. He never has and he never will. Don't be deceived!



As I look at this picture, I can just hear little Mira saying, “YOU WANT MY WHAT! I DON’T THINK SO! JUST TRY AND GET IT!”

The determination on that little face says it all. I can so relate because that’s the stance or mental attitude that the believer need to take when the enemy comes to steal their joy, and to rob them of their blessings from God.

We need to put on our warrior garments and defend what is rightfully ours! We have the power and authority in Jesus’s name, so let’s use it! The enemy tries scare tactics, but we have God’s truth available to us to turn the tide in our favor. We too, like little Mira, need to hold fast to what is rightfully ours and not be intimidated into giving away our “Cookies!”

We often have to change our garments and put on a renewed mind and look at our circumstances, our life situations, through God’s perspective as often the enemy tries to pervert our view, to dim our expectations or “muddy the waters” so to speak.

When your garment becomes soiled with strife, procrastination, doubts, fears, anxiety over the future, unbelief, anger, unforgiveness, frustration, guilt, jealousy and envy RUN, DON’T WALK to the Lord! Confess, repent and receive your new garment. God’s storehouse of new garments never runs out!

This is a new year and time to rebuild the altar; to be repositioned to a new place of worship. It is time for new freedom in the lives of believers. It is time to break any curses and remove them from your bloodline. It is time to shake off any disillusionment, and all discouragement from times past that have caused you to stand in place and not move forward. Break the chains in Jesus's name and move forward.

Quit looking in the rear view mirror at the past. Keep your eyes focused on what's ahead as you seek God's plans. It is time to plant your feet like a tree by the waters of life and grow in your faith. It is time to move forward in your destiny as you pursue, overcome and be a part of the signs, wonders and miracles that God is releasing into the earth.

It is truly the time to do as the Lord commands, FOLLOW ME!