



BAKING COOKIES

By Carl McMurray

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Becoming a Christian might be a little more like falling in love and a little less like baking cookies.

The above quote in an article caught my eye. Partly because I like cookies, but mostly because it might be exactly right. It isn't rocket science, but when you bake cookies you usually use a recipe of some kind. A certain kind of cookie requires a specific recipe. Some of the ingredients may vary from time to time, but basically they remain the same ingredients, in the same amounts, and the same kind of cookies result.

Falling in love is another ball game entirely. Sometimes it starts with a shy smile and sometimes with a shout. Sometimes it creeps up on a friendship over the years and sometimes it rushes us like a freight train. There's no guidelines, no recipes, and no guarantees; nevertheless almost every single person needs it and all things being equal, most will fall sooner or later. Not like cookies at all.

Marines don't lead our forces into battle because they hope to get cookies from well wishers back home. Strong women don't fall into a heap of sobbing and tears because their "snicker doodles" got over-browned. People live and die for love. They commit to life long vows for love. They sacrifice and dedicate and keep going for love. And people don't turn from the world and sin because five steps of obeying the gospel make logical sense.

People turn to Jesus when it finally comes home to them that He loves them, no matter what. They turn when they understand that He knows them inside and out and stills loves them. They turn when they see His body on the cross for their sins. They turn when they have no other self-invented way to live with themselves, when they hit bottom and there is no other place to go.

This week when you talk to your friends and associates, searching for the way to bring the knowledge of Jesus into the conversation, forget about the recipe. Forget about the "steps" they must take. There will be time for that later. Consider first what need for love or healing this person might have in their life. Where can Jesus help them? What part of their spirit is groaning in spiritual loneliness? Slow down, everyone is different. Give this person a way and the time to "fall in love" with the greatest message of hope ever delivered on this earth.