



Your Insight

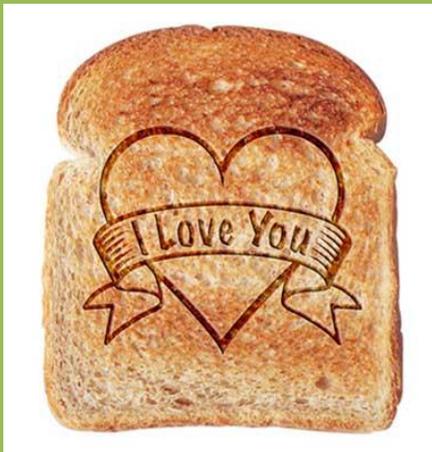
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Why did it taste so good?

By Lisa Gorton

*"I have loved you with
an everlasting love"*

Jeremiah 31:2-4



When my brother Jamie and I were younger we used to go and visit my Nanna and Grandad in Blackburn. Going to see them was always something we used to look forward to and we never wanted to leave. One of the highlights was the food. Oh yes, that smell that fills the house, helping to fill the freshly made cakes with cream, home-made meat and potato pie. Yum. But the one thing that always stood out was the toast at breakfast time. Toast? Yes the toast. For years and years I wondered why the toast at Nanna's used to taste so amazing. When back at home I used to ask mum to try and make toast like at Nanna's – she had no idea what I was talking about and it was never 're-created' exactly the same. For years I never knew what it was that made it taste so amazing. But many years later a revelation took place. When I first met my future mother in law I tasted toast that tasted exactly like Nanna's. I nearly fell off my chair at this discovery! The reason why the toast tasted so good was because...wait for it... it was because of the butter! Rob's mum used butter on her toast [not margarine] like my Nanna. I felt that this revelation was a massive one but it was something so simple.

Now here is the reason why I have talked about toast and butter... When at Nanna and Grandads, not only was the food amazing but just being there was amazing. I always remember the feeling of comfort; happiness and contentedness wash over me as I walked through the door and still get that now when I go to visit Nanna. Nanna and Grandad were the most loving people in my life at the time and the unconditional love they had and showed my brother and I still stays with me now. The love I feel now is still that same love from all those years ago. They and the love they shared was absolutely unconditional, patient and kind. It is something that was given to me in the past but stays with me in the present and I know I will always carry it into the future.

Anyone could have walked through the door at their house and they would have treated with the same love and kindness they treated us with. I firmly believe and know that. There was just 'something' there that wasn't at home. Like the revelation of the butter, I encountered a similar feeling when first entering the house of my future mother in law.

Jesus Christ dwells in those who believe: *"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive ..."* Romans 8:9-14

By giving my life to Christ just over a year ago, after doing the Alpha course at CCP I now know, through faith, that what was there in my Nanna and Grandad and the house they lived in and in the house and person of my mother in law, was and is the Holy Spirit. For me, this realisation was one of the reasons I came to know Jesus. Like the butter, it made everything taste so amazing but I didn't know what it was. Now I know what it is I'm never going back. Looking back I could have had it so good if I had known what it was. But Gods timing is always perfect. I can say I wish I had found Christ before I did but it was God's plan that I came to know Christ at that particular time. I don't know why it was that time and may never know. But I know God's timing is always perfect and beautiful.

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

The love I received from my Nanna and Grandad was and is the same love that God loves all his children with, and I will be forever thankful because of the wonderful witness my Nanna and Grandad were. They loved with the same love that they were loved with from our Father.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ..." Ecclesiastes 3

Since coming to live my life in Jesus Christ I have attended a small group and this group of people I have come to know have become the most beautiful, wonderful, and inspiring and strengthening friends I have ever had. I just want to share something that was mentioned one week and I felt God speaking to me so strongly through it and believe that we all should remember this every day of our lives. We were talking about the up and coming Baptisms and how it is such a special day for those giving their life over to Christ. One of my friends then said 'but every day is special in Christ' and how true that is! Every day we live in is beautifully sculpted and created by the Lord, the people we encounter are not there by random and they are each beautifully placed by the Lord. We look forward to certain days because of their meaning and significance, but every day we live has significance: Jesus died so we could live each day in freedom and in His grace. The Lord inhabits His creation, He is in everything, He is always there and He does not hide from us. We just have to search for Him and when we've found Him, keep Him as our staff.

But if I am being honest, it can seem that some days the Lord can be nowhere to be found, our strength has gone, but in truth He has never left us, we just lose sight that the Lord is our strength, our peace our source. As I said earlier, when I look into the faces of the friends I love so much I see Jesus. When I feel I have lost my direction, when I make the wrong choices – and trust me I have made some shockers! When I feel the sadness coming, the guilt dwelling, I look to my friends because that's where the living Christ dwells. He lives in us: in you, me and our church and I know that when I am in the presence of those I love in Christ I am never far away from the love, comfort and peace that is our Lord, Jesus. When I feel inside the shift from peace to a disharmony I read this verse and feel Christ dwelling in me... (John 14:27)



City Church Women
Leaving heart prints on our world

"We have shared together the blessings of God"

Philippians 1:7



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

Lots of Love x

Lisa



Don't forget to book your ticket for the next Beloved (Take your Stand) on the 26th and 27th of April. Tickets are now available on sale...

If you would like to share your story or something that God has been speaking to you about, you can send it to Meliza: melizahere@yahoo.co.uk. We would love to hear from you! x