



COLLECTING RECIPES

KEY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 103:13-14, 2 Timothy 2:13

I have a confession to make. I don't like to cook. That astounds some of you and stands in agreement with others. Let's just say it is probably a good thing that working in my kitchen on my next culinary masterpiece is not one of my have-to pastimes because eating most definitely is.

Once upon a time, however, I collected recipes in the hopes that my cooking desires would someday kick in. I bought recipe books and subscribed to recipe magazines and bookmarked recipe websites and watched cooking shows with things like "That's so good" and the heartfelt "I need that" coming out of my mouth. But alas, the desires never changed. Even with all those recipes stored away, I still managed to cook the same things in the same ways, and all the recipes did was gather dust.

I did a recipe purge not too long ago. If I had never wanted to cook whatever it was badly enough to go hunt down the recipe somewhere in my stash, the recipe went bye-bye. The books, the magazines, the online favorites, everything. It was one of the most liberating things I've ever done because they just weren't doing me any good.

I have been guilty of doing the same with other things. Have you? Have you ever taken sermon notes or saved a Christian magazine article or bookmarked an inspirational blog post with the intention of learning something really good—someday—only to find that you've ended up with nothing more than a collection of unused recipes?

I have read or heard something with "That's so good" and "I need that" coming out of my mouth, but once I have it stashed away, I have often forgotten that I intended to come back to it later.

Thankfully, God is not content to let us forget His truths when we really do want to know them. I'm grateful He never stops getting what I need where I can see it or hear it, again and again and again, because He knows how much good it will bring to me.

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His Word does say that *"As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust"* (Psalm 103:13-14). I understand that wonderful verse to mean that He remembers that we forget. He knows we have good intentions and that life often takes them over. He knows that we often resort to doing the same old things in the same old ways. And He knows we often need compassionate reminders of His goodness and the new things only He can bring. It's why we are told that *"if we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny himself"* (2 Timothy 2:13).

I'm so thankful for that. Because I'm pretty sure there is something else He knows, and it's that I simply cannot be trusted with recipes.

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