

# Lives of Fragrance

2 Corinthians 4:14-17

March 2025 | Vol. 3, Issue 9



## What's New

April 5<sup>th</sup>

*Hands of Beauty, Hands of Grace*

Registration will soon be open online for those who wish to attend. Please sign up in the lobby if you are willing to display the work of your hands!

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

*April Bible Study*

Registration will open in March for a Bible Study on the book of Ruth, meeting on Thursdays in April at 10:00-11:30 am. Childcare and Kids' Day will be available for newborns through first grade.

Ruby Boveda delights in the study of God's Word! As she studies the Bible, she writes and shares what she has written through a blog. In this article, Ruby encourages us to continually return to the Gospel and to walk in the Spirit so that our lives may impact a world in need of Christ.

## Be a Spark

Ruby Boveda

The king gave this order to all the people: "Celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." Neither in the days of the judges who led Israel nor in the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah had any such Passover been observed. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated to the Lord in Jerusalem.

A spark...With a tiny spark, burning begins, embers fly with a delicate breeze, shifting with the wind patterns, devastating anything in its patch. Sparks can ravage mountainsides, obliterate cities, decimate forests, and upheave life. Amazing is the power of a tiny spark!

Josiah, the young king, began his reign with a spark. Witnessing the damage which the kings before him did by ignoring God, understanding the blessings David received due to his dedication to God, Josiah chose the example of the latter. He began by tearing down idols and their places of worship. Take a moment to imagine this... Josiah, a very young man, giving the order to tear down one place after another. With news of each successful demolishing, he would receive notice of another location. We do not read of discouragement but maybe at times he felt like this was a never-ending, almost impossible battle against evil. Imagine how his heart may have felt knowing the fathers before him were responsible for leading the people astray. How many do you think were angry with the king, possibly leading a revolt from this shift in beliefs? How many had pledged their lives to detestable practices and worthless gods? Josiah followed through with his plan, such a small spark of a plan initially, that ended up becoming a flame of restoration.

Taking the word of the Lord as truth, he destroyed all physical elements and locations used for pagan and ungodly practice. Destroying every article of idolatry, leaving no remnant behind. In some places burning it, grinding it, desecrating the ravaged space, ensuring every generation to come would see that idolatry reaps destruction and no longer be practiced. Josiah recognized something his grandfather David had known: God is good, loving, kind, and wonderful to His chosen. Once his kingdom was free of the physical idolatry, he began to address the spiritual heart of the people.

2 Chronicles 34:32-33 NIV. Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors. Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the Lord, the God of their ancestors.

Removing physical elements was not enough. Josiah knew their hearts had to be renewed. When we make a commitment to Christ, God wants all of us: heart, soul, mind, strength. God's true satisfaction is not just a band of followers, going through religious motion. Rather, He craves dedicated lovers of Him, willing to follow Him from now through eternity. God is seeking those who will follow Him wholeheartedly, as Josiah did. In return, true followers will reap a harvest of blessing: souls will be set free, hearts will no longer be shackled to sin, minds will no longer be captive to thoughts, and hope to mankind, restored.

Amazing how this spark of an idea, placed on the heart of Josiah as a young boy, grew into a flame, igniting an entire generation of people to return to their God. A forgetful generation restored their faith, renewed their hearts, and changed their ways. If Josiah had not followed his spark of an idea, if he had ignored and just continued with the evil, if he had not sought to tear down every place physically and spiritually, the restoration would not have occurred.

*Be a Spark continued...*

We must rip out every piece of sin, that we may return to Christ and be fully restored. How wonderful this place of restoration is!! How wonderful and full was the heart of Josiah as he knew his dedication and reverence to God transformed an entire generation.

Following this spark of faith allowed Josiah a reward of forever being remembered.

2 Kings 23:25 NIV states, "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses."

As we walk, it is my prayer we may not brush aside mini sparks of faith. May we be ever so sensitive to the heart of the Holy Spirit as He leads us in directions that may be difficult or appear impossible. May we seek to follow this example, removing sin in every part of our lives, dedicating ourselves to Christ. May we be strong and courageous, following this spark of faith, recognizing that a spark can change an entire generation.

## Recipes

Barbara Wesel and Rachel Wesel have shared favorite recipes with us! These main dishes and desserts may become new favorites of many families, not just in the spring, but throughout the year. Barbara shared the chicken curry and GF cookies; Rachel shared the baked ziti and pretzel dessert.

### Chicken Curry

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- ½ envelope dry onion soup mix (or about ¼ dry onion powder)
- 3 C chicken broth
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 ½ tsp curry powder
- ¾ tsp chili powder
- ½ tsp crushed red pepper

Place all ingredients in a large roasting pan. Cover with foil and bake in oven for 45 minutes at 325°. Uncover and bake another 45 minutes. Strain out liquid and thicken for gravy. Pour back in pan with chicken. Serve with rice.

For cooking in a crock pot. Put all ingredients in the crock pot and cook for 5 hours on high. Pour liquid out into a saucepan and thicken for gravy.

### Gluten Free Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 C peanut butter
- 1 C brown sugar
- 1 C chocolate chips
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp baking soda

Mix together and roll into small balls. Place on a parchment lined cookie sheet. Flatten slightly. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes. Let cool before removing from the cookie sheet.

### Baked Ziti

- ziti noodles
- 1 jar Prego sauce
- 1 egg
- onions
- oregano
- 1 Tbsp parmesan cheese
- ½ C ricotta cheese
- 1 can tomato sauce
- basil
- mozzarella cheese

Cook noodles. Mix parmesan cheese, Prego, ricotta cheese, egg, salt, and pepper. Add noodles and mix well. Sauté onions. Add basil, oregano, and tomato sauce to onions. Pour over noodles. Grate mozzarella cheese and sprinkle on top. Bake 20-25 minutes at 350°.

### Pretzel Dessert

- 2 C pretzel sticks, crushed
- ¾ C butter, melted
- 2 Tbsp sugar

Mix together. Press down into a 9x13 pan. Bake at 400° for 8-10 minutes. Cool completely.

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 8 oz cool whip
- 1 C sugar

Spread over pretzel crust.

- 2 three-oz packages strawberry Jell-O
- 2 C boiling water
- 1 package frozen strawberries

Dissolve Jell-O into 2 cups water. Cool. Mix in package of frozen strawberries. Refrigerate this mixture for approximately 10 minutes; then pour over pretzel and cream cheese base. Refrigerate until set.

## Hands of Beauty, Hands of Grace

Karen Krueger

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands." (Psalm 90:17)

As women, our hands are busy throughout each day, working on the practical and creating beauty. God entrusts us with gifts; we use them, in turn, to honor Him and to bless others. Ladies, please attend *Hands of Beauty, Hands of Grace* on April 5th to marvel at the beautiful art and craft items which will be displayed. If you would like to bring items which you have made, sign up in the lobby or email km.krueger7@gmail.com.

**Lives of Fragrance** is a publication of the Women's Ministries of Tulsa Bible Church. For corrections, comments, or written contributions, please email flnewsandviews@gmail.com.

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