

# WORD LIVING

November 2006

*"My soul can't afford to go to hell. It cost too much."*

## CALLED TO BE MORE THAN A KERNEL!



We began in September with an allegory that compared our spiritual lives to the design of a kernel of popcorn. We understood that to become popcorn, a useful substance, heat must be applied to the kernel such that the moisture inside would turn to steam and expand with such force that the hard outer shell would be broken.

Aeschylus once wrote: "Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God."

Perhaps you remember this quote from Robert Kennedy on the Death of Martin Luther King. I could not have understood this concept in 1968 but allow me to share my thoughts on this statement.

A statement from the October newsletter **"Until being the same becomes painful, we will stay the same"** made me think about the awful grace of God. The word awful as various meaning but unpleasant seemed to fit the meaning best.

The unpleasant grace can be called, the unpleasant mercy of God which allows me to do dumb stuff and get another opportunity to do it right. Or perhaps it is the unpleasant mercy which permits pain, drop by drop upon my heart until I yield to his will.

The unpleasant mercy of God is like heat to the kernel of corn. To be a useful vessel, there must be change. There are times when

change is painful, but once through it, we look back and see growth and strength that was birthed from the pain.

Not all kernel become popcorn. Some have accepted the imprisonment of sinful living and disregarded the gift of salvation and the promise of eternal life. They have received the same opportunity and yet they have chosen not to grow and thus they remain unused kernels.

But for those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and seek to spend eternity with Him, the road is not always easy. There is pain, despair, loneliness, unfulfilled desires, and physical limitations. But we are called to be more than kernels and the Christ I serve is able to use all that falls on us, drop by drop for His glory and honor if we give all to Him.

Drop by drop – not all at once, but just enough to focus our minds on the cross. Drop by drop on going, perhaps until we are molded for use.

Pain in this analogy, like controlled heat, produces what could not have been on its own.

Jesus suffered and died because he loved us. He rose from the dead, He lives, and will come again for us. Until then, we are called to be more than kernels – we are called to be useful vessels.

John 3:16 Matthew 25:31- 46 Romans 12  
Rev. 20:10-15 Matthew 6:33  
Keep yourself in the Love of God – Jude  
Walk in the Spirit – Galatians 5:14 - 6:18

His Steward - Karen