

MAKING IT EVEN BETTER

I usually make Nadine oatmeal for breakfast on Sunday mornings before we head off to church. When I make it for her, I begin by measuring out a half cup of water and placing it in a pot on the stove. After the water comes to a boil, I add the oatmeal and stir it until it is all moist. After removing it from the stove, I drizzle some honey on it, followed by a few sprinkles of cinnamon and top it with some sliced bananas. After pouring a bit of milk on it, I bring out the brown sugar and let Nadine decide how much she wants to put on.

I have offered many times to make this for my daughter some mornings but she always refuses claiming I do not make it as good as she does. Over Christmas I took the opportunity to watch my daughter make oatmeal for herself. She started off by pouring my Soya milk into the pot on the stove instead of water. She then added honey to the milk followed by some chia seeds. Next, she added the oatmeal before turning the burner on a low setting and letting it cook slowly for ten minutes or so. Once it was done, she put it in a bowl and topped it with her favourite fruits and a few chocolate chips for added measure.

The very next Sunday I decided to make Nadine's oatmeal using my daughter's method. When I asked Nadine afterward how it tasted, she replied it was so much moister and better done this way. Moving forward, I will be using my daughter's method of making the oatmeal for Nadine each Sunday morning.

It did not come as a surprise to me that Nadine preferred the oatmeal made with milk as opposed to water. It reminded me how much better hot chocolate tastes when I make it with milk as opposed to just water. Sometimes making a few changes like this can make something we like to eat so much better. This can also be the case when it comes to matters of faith. One person that offered advice to believers in order to make their faith even better was the apostle, Peter.

One of the problems Peter saw early Christians struggling with was their inability to grow and mature in their relationship with Christ. He realized the key ingredient missing from making their faith even better was growing in godly character and adding action to their belief. This was why Peter encouraged believers:

In view of all of this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Peter was listing here actions believers should be adding to their walk with Christ such as learning to know God better, doing His will, developing self control, and other godly attributes in order to make their faith better. It is obvious from reading this list of qualities from Peter how much better a believer's faith would be by adding these things. Peter's words here serve as a reminder to believers back then and now that we have a responsibility to add actions to our faith in Christ in order to learn and grow more mature. Scripture makes it very clear that God will empower us with the help of the Holy Spirit to add these attributes to our faith in order to make it better, but we still have to show our willingness to be committed to doing this. I shared in my example with oatmeal how adding a few things to the way I make it is making it taste even better. Imagine how much better our faith and walk with the Lord would be if we make the changes Peter encourages here.

This plain and ordinary cook is still trying to make changes in order to make my meals better tasting for my family members. This plain and ordinary Christian is trying to do the same with his faith in order to make it better too. May this be a goal for all of us in 2025 when it comes to our faith and our cooking.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean