

CHRISTIAN CHICKEN SOUP



Satan decided to take a break from all his wars, pandemics and cybercrimes and do a little cooking. He stepped into his kitchen, put on his apron and went to his magnificent stove.

On the stove many pots were cooking to their hearts' content. There was a Muslim Pot, a Hindu Pot, a Buddhist Pot, a Kosher Pot, an Atheist Pot and right up on the front burner was a Christian Pot.

The Christian Pot was filled with the most delicious chicken soup ever made. This chicken soup was going to delight folks from soup kitchens in the South Bronx to the White House to five-star restaurants in Hollywood and Houston.

Satan dipped his spoon into the soup and smacked his lips.

“This chicken soup is superb!” he exclaimed. “The best the world has ever tasted. But it’s a tad dull. I think I’ll add a dash of malice to give it more flavor.”

So Satan went to his spice cabinet and pulled down a jar of malice and proceeded to add just the right amount. Not too much. Not too little.

Soon Christians all over the world were eating the most magnificent chicken soup the world has ever tasted.

The secret of this soup was that tiny hint of malice which added zip to every spoonful.



Pastor Jones delivered a sermon on love which brought tears to our eyes. By the time he pronounced the benediction all of us were weeping and hugging each other like true Christians.

So why was Satan smiling as he watched us leave the sanctuary? Satan knew what was about to happen. That sermon on love was laced with Satan's chicken soup. And Satan's chicken soup was laced with just the right amount of malice to make it interesting.

On our way home from church we came across a man with a frown on his face.

"Good morning," we said to the man with the frown.

He walked on without a word.

"What's wrong with him?" I said to my wife. "Can't he even say hello?" We were strangely annoyed by that man's attitude. Suddenly the joy we'd experienced just moments ago in church was gone.

Satan observed all this and smiled his grotesque grin. He knew that the man who passed us by was trying to figure out how he'd pay his bills and feed his family. The man got a pink slip on Friday and hadn't slept a wink since.

The chicken soup was doing its job. Satan was delighted.

It doesn't take much malice to give Satan's flavor to the chicken soup. Just a pinch of malice, and our tender-loving hearts harden quite remarkably.

Satan's malice spice is quite subtle.

It's easy to recognize in others. Yet we rarely see it in ourselves.

So the Apostle Paul advises us to search our hearts and clear it away.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

On account of these the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them.

But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth.

Colossians 3:5-8

All we have to do is look around us, and we see the effects of Satan's malice spice in our chicken soup.

Instead of believers held together by the power of the cross....

...we are being torn apart by Satan's malice spice.

Somehow we have to get that malice out of the chicken soup.

We have to get it out of our hearts.

When the Apostle Paul tells us to put off the old nature, he's simply telling us to repent.

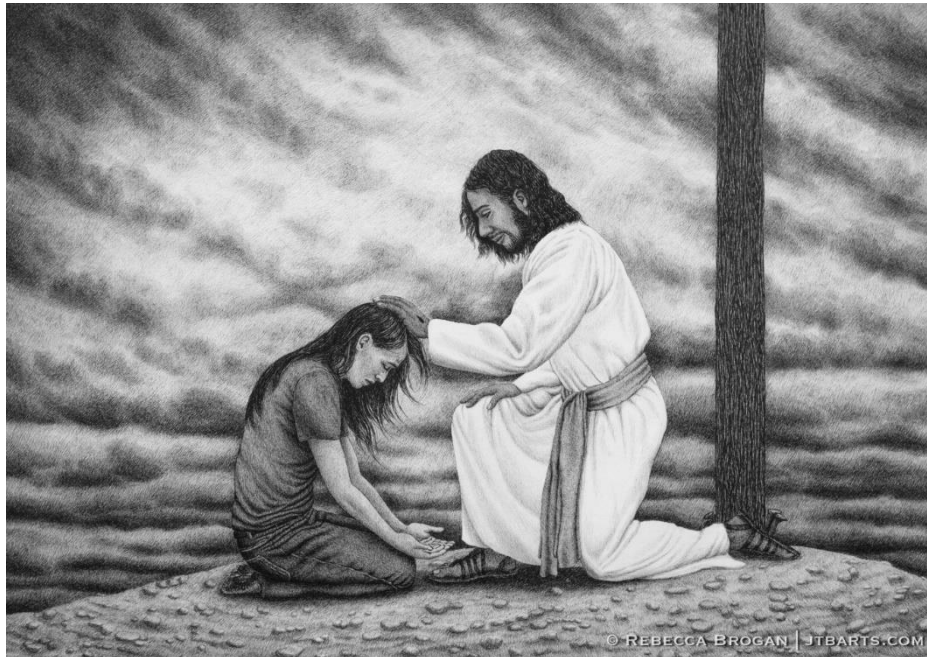
Repent especially of malice.



The Spirit of the Lord will help us deal with that subtle attitude, that hidden sneer.

But we have to cooperate.

How can we put on the new nature unless we first bring our malice to the Lord and lay it at his feet?



At the Foot of the Cross-Forgiven Rebecca Brogan

We can do this.

We can bring our malice to the Master and give it up.

***Search me, O God and know my heart.
Try me and know my thoughts.
And see if there be any wicked way in me.
And lead me in the Way Everlasting.
Psalm 139:23-24***

The next time Satan offers us a bowl of his chicken soup, may the Lord give us eyes to see what's going on. May he give us the wisdom to say, "No thanks".

Once we've laid all malice at the foot of the cross and let go of it, the Spirit of the Lord will help us wrap ourselves in our new nature.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful.

Colossians 3:12-15

Of course, Satan will still be cooking up more chicken soup, adding his unique spices to give it flavor. And he will still be offering us generous helpings of his soup, free of charge.

May God give us the wisdom to taste the soup before we swallow it.

And if there is the slightest hint of malice, may God give us the good sense to say, "No thanks".

Prayer

Oh Lord how we long for a new nature. We want to love from the heart, free from malice.... it's tearing us apart from you and from each other. Without your help we cannot get it out of our hearts. Help us Lord. Help us to give it up, to let it go forever. Remove this wickedness from us...lead us away from it. Lead us back to you, enfold us in your beautiful nature, your compassionate love. May your perfect harmony flow from our hearts, instead of malice. May the peace you call us to, rule in our hearts. And thank you, thank you that we are so beloved by you that you forgive us, that you free us from Satan's schemes, that your holiness is ours when we draw near and ask. May we honor you and show our love for you, by desiring and embracing your holiness with all we have.



THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

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Message written August 2020 REB

Art: Via unsplash and Rebecca Brogan jtbarts.com