

Food

Part 8

All the food is clean but the source of the food is also important. I don't mean whether it is coming from animals or from plants, but from whom you receive it that is important.

Daniel when he was in Babylon during the period of exile, ⁵ ***The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.*** (Daniel 1:5) The food that the king offered is clean but the source made it unclean. Possibly if Daniel would accept that food he might be forced to follow other practices and pagan rituals that contradict the ways of the Lord. Many they would say, what is the problem of eating such nice food, ⁶ ***But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.*** (Daniel 1:9) That food was just a kind of bribe, if Daniel would receive it and eat it then he need to follow other pagan rituals and practices that contradict God's word and ways.

People may give you some gifts or some money and after that they will ask you to do something wrong with them. Therefore be aware of receiving such kind of gifts, they are not from God but from the devil.

A man may use to give gift or food to a girl with a wrong motive in order that after he will ask her to do something wrong. Food that received after a girl consented to give her body for a man, such food is from devil and we should not eat it when they invite us to take part of it. In such practice we are telling to worldly people around us that we don't approve their ways and their doings.

We don't also participate, prepare or partake food of the religious or traditional feasts. In this we are telling that we don't agree and we will not take part with their practices that contradict the word of God. We stand for the commands of God and for the truth.

Don't be enticed with gifts or food that can be used to bribe you and deviate you from following the right way; these things from the devil and you don't need to take anything from the devil. God will give you more if you stand with His word of truth and not compromise. When Daniel decided not to defile himself with such kind of food, God made the way that Daniel and his friends will be exempted from eating such kind of food, ⁹ ***Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel,*** ¹⁰ ***but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."*** ¹¹ ***Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,*** ¹² ***"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink."*** ¹³ ***Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."*** ¹⁴ ***So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.*** ¹⁵ ***At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.*** ¹⁶ ***So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.*** (Daniel 1:9-16)

Just be willing to obey God and the LORD will make a way for you to escape the temptation. God will bestow on you favour and He will give you healthy and nutritional food. Don't be enticed by what others are giving of material things and nice food to entice you to do wrong. David said, ***"Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in wicked deeds with men who are evildoers; let me not eat of their delicacies."*** (Psalm 141:4)

"Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel." (Proverbs 20:17) This is another example of food that we should not eat, the food that comes as outcome of fraud, or food that comes from stolen money. We should not practice frauding or stealing money. God does not want us to do that and gain our daily living with such kind of evil practices. God commanded us to work hard to earn our living, ***"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."*** (Genesis 3:19)

Other food that we should not take is blood as we can read in the following Scriptures: ¹⁰ ***Any Israelite or any alien living among them who eats any blood—I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from his people.*** ¹¹ ***For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*** ¹² ***Therefore I say to the Israelites, "None of you may eat blood, nor may an alien living among you eat blood."*** ¹³ ***"Any Israelite or any alien living among you who hunts any animal or bird that may be eaten must drain out the blood and cover it with earth,*** ¹⁴ ***because the life of every creature is its blood. That is why I have said to the Israelites, "You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off."*** (Leviticus 17:10-14) We should not eat blood, ***"For the life of a creature is in the blood."*** The Apostles recommended the same, not to eat blood, in their letters to the gentiles, ***"You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things."*** (Acts 15:29) The Apostles also included not to eat strangled animals because strangled animals their blood is still in them. Examples of strangled animal are those animals that are killed by an electric shock; such meat we should not eat.

My Dear and Beloved: The focus should be on God and not on your own stomach. God had given you the right way and the right means to receive from Him your daily food and provision and you need to focus on His ways. Devil will also tempt you to do wrong by giving easy options to earn your living, but later on will cause you to fall in troubles. Therefore be aware of that, because if you accept devil offers you are causing God to be angry with you and later on you will fall into trouble. Have self-control and learn to say no to sin and commit yourself fully to God as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that open my mind to understand your will and how to live my life to you. Lord gives me self-control and strengthens me to say no to sin and refrain from receiving food, money or gifts from the devil. Lord I commit myself from this day on that I will not receive food or gifts from the following people _____, because I know that is not your provision for me. Lord I trust you from this day on that you will supply all my needs, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*