

Spiritual lessons from Playdoh! by Melanie Imel

(WARNING: This is not Kid stuff; don't read if you're easily offended!)

I am always amazed at how God speaks to us. He is such a wonderful Father God and knows just how to teach us. My main gifting is that of a Bible teacher and it is funny sometimes how God gives me teaching and insight into His word. I was watching some children play yesterday with playdoh and my heart was flooded with scriptures and teaching on God's molding and building process in His children. As I watched the children start rolling out the playdoh and pressing it into the shape they wanted, the Lord reminded me of His molding process. God loves us and He is always working in us. Even when we are bearing good fruit for the Kingdom of God, John 15:2 tells us that we are not exempt from this molding and pruning process. God will always be working and refining us. John 15:2 "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Sometimes this pruning process can be painful. Jeremiah 18 talks about God being the Potter and we, His children, being the clay in His Hand. Notice what the scriptures says in the Amplified: Jeremiah 18: 1-4 "The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and behold, he was working at the wheel and the vessel that he was making from clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he made it over, REWORKING IT into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to make it. God is reworking us into another vessel; a vessel of honor and one that He can pour His glory through. What is He working out of us? Well, let me ask you this: Are you easily offended? Do you believe the best of people or are you always getting your feelings hurt? Are you loose with your mouth? Do you hurt people with your comments and actions? Are you prideful and competitive? I could go on and on ,but my point is ALL OF US have MANY areas that need to be worked out of us (and believe me, I'm preaching to myself!...why do you think God was speaking to me?) If you think you have arrived to some great spiritual maturity level and you have everything pretty much together, go ask your spouse what he or she thinks, ask your best friend, or better yet, let someone cross you and see if you respond in a humble, Christ-like manner... or do you blast them? I always think of the control Jesus had when they were crucifying him. He was so full of love and the fruit of the spirit. When they pulled his beard out, He did not blast them, he did not curse them, yet some Christians have such little self control that they could not stand for even a car to pull out in front of them without having a little fit, they are so fleshed out. This molding process is painful because we have to die to our flesh and realize once again that it's not all about us!!! I really believe that a lack of the fruit of the Spirit in a person's life with stop their destiny! Romans 8:29 "For those whom He foreknew He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren."

Galatians 4:19 "My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you. When we finally stop fighting God, and submit to Him, it is at this point that He can shape us and mold us, and place us into a position of influence."

Another point to make about this molding process, as I watched the blue playdoh being pressed into the mold, the kid's used scissors to trim off the edges. When we go through God's molding process, not everything can go with us. Some stuff must be left behind. We may be led by the Lord to stop watching that questionable entertainment, or we may not be able to keep that certain friendship. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." As we go into another level of Glory, God says we must be CHANGED! We cannot stay the same and enter into a new season in God. The Amplified version of this scripture says that we are changed from "one degree of glory to another degree of glory". The Heat or the Fire of God is turned up in our lives to bring the impurities to the surface...not for us to feel sorry for ourselves, or to blame other people for all our problems; but to remove the impurities, to get them out.

The last point God showed me was this: Just as I watched that blue playdoh be squeezed and take on the impression of the butterfly mold, What we submit ourselves to, what we press and mold into, will be imprinted on our lives. If we submit and press into worry, strife, unforgiveness and submit our thoughts and actions to this, we will be molded into a lifestyle of all the above and the imprint of the world will be on us. BUT! If we submit to God and walk in love, believe the best, cover a multitude of sins, learn to speak slowly, learn to humble ourselves, we will be pressed and molded into the image of Christ and His imprint will be on us!

I don't know about you, but I want to finish my course, and God's course for my life seems to be getting narrower. I am having to drop and discard many things the further I get down this course in order to finish. And to think I got all this from watching some children play for 30 minutes with a can of blue playdoh!!!