CROCKPOT GOD *(a Summer Series)*

I'm a cook, a good cook. I am not a chef, nor am I gourmet, but I cook some pretty tasty stuff. I just have a knack for the art of cooking. And I love to serve people. That is my gift: serving others. I take great joy in making another feel seen, pampered, cared for; because to me, helping someone feel as if they are a most significant person, is unexpected and yet so necessary today. In a world where no one notices anyone, it is peculiar but reassuring to know we are evident, seeable, detectable.

Our passion is to help others who are struggling to get on their feet and start over fresh. That is what our ministry offers...new beginnings. So many days explode with the neediness of those we want to help. There is a moral crisis of hopelessness, a pandemic, not of disease, but of despondency and desperation. The days are long, but my family still must eat! (Funny how that works.) My crockpot lately has become my companion. Is it any wonder I am reminded of the efficiency, the assurance, the promise of our slow cooker God. No where else am I able to go that it is okay when worthwhile things take time. With God, I am able to put something 'in to cook' with Him. I can leave it marinating and go on about my day. I don't have to worry about what is being prepared nor must I stir it constantly or wonder if it is going to be 'finished' when the time comes. His faithfulness promises every time that the end result will be exactly what I was hungry for. Several years ago, the Lord gave me specific instruction. I audibly heard Him speak in my spirit. He told me to trust Him, to be obedient, to let go, and then to wait. All of those passive instructions are action-packed, but nothing out of what He commanded me to do was to be instantaneous. The tuition He was going to take me through would require slow and intentional preparation. I would need to be steeped in His Word, carefully seasoned, gradually made ready.

It seems that the human race has become dependent on a microwave mentality and a fast-food diet of consumption. We want spontaneous and rapid relief, everything to appear magically, and the closest we allow ourselves to others has morphed into drive-thru relationships. We want to just snack on a little of this and a lot of that, rather than feast on the things in this life that are nutritional for our souls. Instead of bedding down with a midnight snack, we must fill up on the Bread of Life and thirst for Living Water.

How do you see God? I see God as a slow cooker. He is thorough. His promises are good. And with learned experience, as we wait on Him and His perfect timing for the plans He has for us to be fulfilled, we see the faithfulness of what He's been simmering deep down inside you and me all along.

Ephesians 3:20, 'Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you.' (TPT)