

Last month I attended a Prayer Conference in which the primary focus was on “Soaking” in the Lord’s Presence. I understood that the group I was to be with placed great value on encouraging believers to really be content to sit or kneel or lay down or whatever in the Lord’s Presence for extended periods of time. Knowing I need occasional refocusing by submitting myself to God’s servants who are known to be “God Seekers,” I decided to attend this 4-day event. What a blessing it was. Outside of the days way back when I was a Sister in the Convent in Tipton, Indiana, I have not since then experienced time given over solely to presenting oneself in silence to the Lord for extended periods of time.

My first surprise was to see the picture on the front of the brochure once we registered. This wasn’t the exact picture, but here is a replica:



so.....

You got it, a jar of pickles! I thought, okay,

It wasn’t until the first session that the lady speaker talked about how cucumbers become pickles. She said that they soaked for an extended period of time in a solution. I also remember her saying that if one were to dip a cucumber into a pickling solution then take it out after a short time, it would remain a cucumber, and not become a pickle. Cucumbers become pickles by soaking in a pickling solution.

I began to get the picture. If I want to be transformed to be more and more like Jesus, there is a direct correlation between a cucumber and me. I won’t get transformed by getting a little dipping into His Transforming Presence, I really need to be saturated in Him.

So I set out to read some old recipes about how to “pickle”: cucumbers. In some of the older recipes, and after hearing from a couple of ladies at Sunday School, I have learned just a bit about pickling cucumbers.

Old fashioned recipes (as opposed to the “quick” recipes fashionable today) called for cucumbers to be soaked in a solution for upwards to 3 to 4 weeks. As the cucumbers get steeped and soaked, more soaked, still soaked, etc., a scum comes from the cucumbers and rises to the top of the solution. That scum is scraped off the solution.....again more soaking, more scum, more straining off the scum, and further soaking. Some recipes call for the cucumbers to be removed from the pickling solution, the old solution to be thrown away and a stronger solution be concocted. The pickles are then steeped in that solution, scum does its thing, etc. A third solution strong yet is then made up, and the cucumbers submitted to a long period of time in it.

Finally, the day comes, and of course, the cucumber has become a pickle. It has been transformed by consistent, sustained soaking in a solution that is tailor made to transforming it from one thing into another.

Are you a spiritual cucumber? Would you like to become a tasty pickle? Consider spending sustained, soaking, time surrendered to the heart and the hand, the will and the good pleasure of your Savior. He is the Ultimate Transformer.

More to come!

Happy Pickling!!!