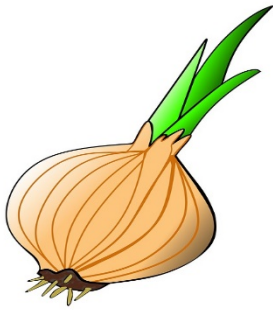


Anybody want an onion?

Devotion 1.6



For those of you who may be new to STP, you may not know that I'm the mom of 5 children - all of which are active in our ministry. Just like any other mom, I do the regular mom things. I remind people to clean their rooms and tell them to pick up their dirty socks. I run kiddos back and forth to rehearsals, and other events. And I help plan meals and cook - which means I often am the one to go to the grocery store.

If you are a mom, going to the grocery store is a pretty mundane task. We pick up things like tomato paste (what exactly is that?), chicken, and pasta. We grab the bread, the ham and the cheese. We may throw in some cookies, chips and even ice cream, just to shake things up a bit. But overall, we probably don't get too terribly excited about the grocery store.

What is more fun, is returning home, and watching my family unload the groceries. My children - especially my younger ones, are always eager to go through the bags to see what I may have picked up that looks especially yummy. I love to hear them get really excited about the simplest thing - like a box of cereal.

You know what I've never heard them exclaim? "Yes! Mom bought onions! I've been wanting onions all week. Can I please open the bag and have one right now?" There may be one or two die-hard onion lovers out there, but I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that no one at your house gets excited about onions either. Why? Well, when they are raw they can be bitter, smelly, and even make you cry.

The funny thing is, when you take an onion and add it to other recipes, it really changes the outcome. Throw some in with that tomato paste, chicken and pasta, and you've got the beginnings of a great meal. Add a little to a hotdog with chili and slaw, throw in a baseball game, and you've got an American classic. Put a whole bunch of onions in some beef stock, add bread and cheese, and you have French onion soup!

When you take an onion, and add it to other ingredients, it enhances the flavor of things. Alone, it may not be the best, but when you combine it with other flavors, it changes the recipe. If you allow an onion time to cook, the flavor mellows, and what once made you cry completes your dinner with class. Fancy Nancy French onion soup, anyone?

We are all a little bit like onions. Sometimes we are a little hard to manage, and we aren't good on our own. But when God looks at us, He gets excited, because He knows the potential that we have. He knows that with the right recipe, He can use us for His glory. Even when we try, we aren't always going to be perfect fruit - sometimes we are just going to be an onion. And that's okay, because God created onions, and He knows exactly how to use them.

Key Verse: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Anybody want an onion?

Devotion 1.6