

# Chocolate Faith

“Chocolate is the answer. Who cares what the question is.” Anonymous, but true by the standard of many.

Even if you happen to be (and I have no idea how that would possible) not a fan of chocolate, perhaps this journey into the idea of chocolate will be helpful to you, dear reader. We can gain faith insights from all directions, and God can teach us through candy as he can from sheep on a hillside.

There is a film called Coraline, in which a young girl lives in a huge house with her parents. In one scene, the truth about chocolate not being good for dogs (and it is not) helps point toward another world, in our case it might be heaven.

“Coraline opened the box of chocolates. The dog looked at them longingly.

"Would you like one?" she asked the little dog.

"Yes, please," whispered the dog. "Only not toffee ones. They make me drool."

"I thought chocolates weren't very good for dogs," she said, remembering something Miss Forcible had once told her.

"Maybe where you come from," whispered the little dog. "Here, it's all we eat."

– **Neil Gaiman, Coraline**

What an insight! Here in this world there are human rules and things that are wonderful that we ignore. But in heaven, the very same things are wonderful and commonplace.

Things like peace and faith are good on earth. But they are great in heaven.

Holy words and actions are rare on this earth. But in heaven, they are everywhere.

Maybe we should practice more of heaven's blessings on this earth until we get there. We never know what changes God can make!

Perhaps when you think of chocolate cake you have a twinge of guilt, particularly if you are health conscious or trying to lose weight. But that feeling may just depend on where you live.

In a test, “He showed the words “chocolate cake” to a group of Americans and recorded their word associations. “Guilt” was the top response. If that strikes you as unexceptional, consider the response of French eaters to the same prompt: “celebration.” – **Michael Pollan, In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto**

If Christians can move from debilitating guilt to heavenly celebration in worship and daily life, we will have moved far. God has much to show us, and if we can concentrate on what God frees us to do instead of what God keeps us from doing, we will be spiritually blessed.

Like Charles Shultz says, “All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.”

We love in the Christian life. Jesus tells us the greatest commandment is to love the lord your God with all of your heart mind and strength, and that the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. But under the headline of love are things like responsibility, service, worship, feeding the hungry, sharing salvation, and the many other things which follow our love for God and others.

Jesus says “greater love has no one than this than to lay down his life for his friends.” Being a friend is a gift God gives us. Christian friendship takes it to a much deeper level. A little like chocolate takes food.

“There is nothing better than a friend, writes Linda Grayson, “ unless it is a friend with chocolate.” Same thing with faith. A friend is good. A friend who is a Christian, much more delicious!

Then we can find that faith gives strength, more than anything on earth might give us. Strength to make the right choices is a key thing God offers us. But a nice earthly illustration of strength, is given by Judith Viorst when she says, “Strength is the capacity to break a Hershey bar into four pieces with your bare hands - and then eat just one of the pieces.”

God offers much more strength than even this, and it feeds into all areas of life, not just meals. We can make good, spiritual choices daily as we draw spiritual strength from God. Turning from evil, lifting up others, going to church, reading the chocolate elixir of scripture, they and other things which come from spiritual strength.

Finally we come to the movie character Forrest Gump and his box of chocolates. As a boy with (by the world's standards) mental and physical problems, he could have been destined for a life of darkness and difficulty. But as it unfolded, his difficulties proved to be the key to better understanding and a life many could only dream of.

“Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.” ~ Forrest Gump His momma told him. And the surprises, the blessings which come when we open that box of surprises can give us miracles and grace.

Never opening that box of faith will literally kill us. When we dare to see the wonderful things God has in store for us, we will be forever blessed.

Take the following thought. “In Heaven, chocolate has no calories and is served as the main course.” Chocolate, or even better, faith thoughts for you!