

Dear Friend,

My friend Mike drove a bread truck for many years. Every day he would drive the empty truck to the huge bakery where they made the bread. He would back his truck up to one of the docks so the bread could be loaded into the truck. He told me that even after so many years of being there every day, the aroma of the freshly baked bread filled the atmosphere, and it was wonderful.

Once the truck was fully loaded with bread, Mike's job then was to deliver the bread to all the various grocery stores, outlets, and local shops where the bread would be made available to the people. It was not the same route every day, but still it was fairly routine. Depending on the volume of sales, some of the stores were serviced every other day, some weekly, some biweekly.

Mike had children and grandchildren of his own. Every time he would see one of them lather a slice of bread with peanut butter, jelly, or both ... and then watch the delight on their faces as they took that first bite ... Mike would think of all of the children who would enjoy the bread he delivered all along his route each day.

He also thought of the elderly people who depended on the bread being available at the store in their neighborhood. How would they survive without bread? Yes, Mike made a living driving the bread truck, but that is not what truly motivated him. People needed the bread and Mike was going to make sure they got it.

Mike told me some of those workdays were long and he would be extremely tired by the time he got home. After some sleep, his alarm clock went off earlier than anybody else's in the neighborhood because he had to be at the bread company early, many hours before dawn, to make sure his truck would be loaded with the bread that the people needed.

Some days there were extra difficult. In winter, sometimes the roads were slick with snow or ice. Some days there would be mechanical difficulties with the truck. Some days he would have a flat tire that would delay his deliveries. Some days there was unexpected road construction which caused long delays by driving detours.

But no matter the difficulties, Mike knew he had two jobs to accomplish. First, he had to be at the bread company early in the morning so his truck would be filled with bread. Second, no matter the difficulties he might encounter along the way, he had to persevere until the bread was delivered. People were depending upon that bread being made available to them.

Did you know that every Christian is called to deliver the bread of heaven to the people? Jesus taught the true purpose of prayer after the disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray:

Luke 11:5-13 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; (6) For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? (7) And he from within

shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. (8) I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. (9) And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. (10) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (11) If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? (12) Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? (13) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Every believer drives a bread truck ... their physical body. Our job is to make sure our "truck" is full of bread (the Holy Spirit) each day. We are to drive our "truck" on whatever route the Lord directs us to so that the people will have the bread that they need. Let us learn a few practical lessons from Mike:

- 1) There is no point in trying to deliver the bread unless you first go to the source of the bread.
- 2) You can't leave your truck parked out on the street by the curb and expect it to be filled with fresh bread.
- 3) You must enter the facility and go to the loading dock.
 - a. You must ask, seek, and knock.
 - b. The door will be opened, and you can go inside.
 - c. You wait in the "presence" while the truck is being loaded.
 - d. The Father provides the bread by means of the Holy Spirit.
 - e. There is no point in leaving until the truck is "filled."
- 4) Your route might not be exactly the same each day.
 - a. You have a HELPER who is more accurate than any GPS system.
 - b. The Holy Spirit will show you the daily route.
- 5) Your job is to simply deliver the bread.
 - a. Nobody who bought the bread even knew Mike's name.
 - b. The NAME of the bread was on each loaf.
 - c. The NAME that matters is ... JESUS!

It is my humble opinion that we have all focused too much on trying to deliver the bread, when the truth of the matter is ... oftentimes we bypassed the step of spending time at the SOURCE in order for us to be filled with the bread ... the Holy Spirit.

Sadly, we often try to deliver bread, but our "truck" is pretty much empty. Let us return to the SOURCE to be refilled ... every single day!

Your co-laborer for Christ,

GARY