

How Long Is Your Spoon? - Buddy Smith

I once read a story about a really long handled spoon so when I saw a telescoping fishing rod I put it together with the ladle of a spoon and came up with The Gospel Spoon. Here's the object lesson about the Gospel Spoon.

My mother was converted to Christ when I was four years old, and took us to Sunday School. Mrs. Lane was my teacher. She spoonfed us the gospel in little-kid-sized bites. Our preacher spread a table right down low every Sunday and little boys and girls were spoonfed the message of salvation at our level. What a great thing it is to hear the gospel preached simply to little children. (The Lord Jesus Christ said, "Feed my lambs", not "Feed my giraffes!") When I was an unsaved teenager, our Sunday School teacher, Mr. Hargraves, spoonfed us week by week. When I moved away from home to Fort Worth brother Woody Stewart spoonfed me a sip, a bite, a nibble, a gospel morsel at a time, and then it happened! I was saved, wonderfully saved, and all that laborious time consuming spoonfeeding paid off!

Within a week after I was saved I began spoonfeeding myself the word of God. The spoon now held much more than it did when others were spoonfeeding me. Now that I held the spoon I could do "demand feeding" and chew on the Holy Scriptures any time I liked. I soon discovered ***1 Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby."*** I devoured spoonful after spoonful. I just couldn't get enough. My dear old pastor reached way down from the pulpit with his longhandled spoon and fed all of us row by row and we loved it. Oh, the delight of feeding upon the limitless resources of Holy Scripture! I was so satisfied with what I was receiving from the Lord that when I was asked, I eagerly took on teaching Sunday School, and to my surprise, my spoon grew in length so that I found myself spoonfeeding a class of 11 year old boys. Wonder of wonders, Some of them soon began to sip from my gospel spoon and one after another was saved and took up the spoon for themselves.

When God called me to preach the handle of my spoon grew longer yet. I was always afraid of speaking in public, but when I stood up in the pulpit and opened my Bible to preach the gospel, my spoon grew long enough to reach all the way to the back row. Small churches, large churches, it made no difference. Obedient faith made the spoon handle grow. Pastors asked me to come and speak. They knew my spoon would grow if I would just feed others with it. At first it was barely long enough to reach across town. Soon I found that it had grown so much longer that it reached a hundred miles, and then it reached 700 miles to the little town where I first took up the pastorate.

When a brother introduced us to Missionary Randy Pike we discovered that a gospel spoon could reach from one continent to another. He grew up in Tennessee, was converted there, and then God stretched his spoon all the way to Australia. It was that spoon of his that provoked us to ask God just how far He could make our spoon to grow. Well, the Lord led us a thousand miles south to McAllen, Texas to spoonfeed folks along the border, and our spoon just kept on growing, sometimes reaching across the border into Mexico

In 1972 the Lord stretched our Gospel Spoon all the way to Australia where there was plenty of room for it to grow longer. We used it in Youth Camps, Bible conferences, new churches, even to other nations, to Papua New Guinea, to Hungary, and Scotland, South Africa, Hong Kong, Canada, and Nepal. We began to ask, "Who knows where it will reach next?" God commanded His children to spoonfeed all nations with the gospel of Christ.

In this narcissistic, self centred generation, Christians sit around waiting for someone to spoonfeed them. For the most part they have become spiritually obese, lazy Christians, attending indifferent churches all belonging to that new denomination. You know the one, it is called **The Sad and Sickly Short Rusty Spoon Obese Indifferent Couch Potato Association of Lukewarm Churches?**

We who know Christ really ought to ask each other "How long is your spoon? Will it reach across the street? Can it reach to another town? To another state? Around the world?" I know some whose spoons reach all the way around the world with a clear witness for Christ. I also know some folks whose spoons lie rusting in the church cutlery drawer, never even used to feed the brethren at home.

You may ask, "But how can I get my gospel spoon to grow?" Spoons stretch by frequent use. It is a proven fact that if you will stretch your spoon to reach across the street, you soon find it reaching around the world.

So, how long is your spoon? - Pastor Buddy