

## Loving in the Red Zone – Red Velvet Obedience

In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in **obedience** to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered. – 2 Chronicles 31:21

It started as a simple thought that came during prayer a few weeks ago: God told me to make a Red Velvet Cake for a friend. I got the ingredients for the cake but decided to make Red Velvet cupcakes instead. I figured they'd be easier to eat and make than a multi-layer cake. However, every cupcake that I made that day came out flat or lopsided.

I was a little concerned because cupcakes are easy and I couldn't figure out how I'd messed up cupcakes...even the frosting ran off the cakes. Next time, I decided to get frozen cookie dough and make chocolate chip cookies instead. After waiting for 10 minutes, I was both horrified and confused about the sight of burnt cookies. I blamed it on the cookie dough and threw the cookies away.

I waited a few weeks and decided to make a special combination of brownies and chocolate chip cookies. When I put the mix in the oven, I could envision how good they were going to smell and taste.

I checked on the mix 30 minutes into baking. It looked deliciously brown on top and smelled irresistible. However, when I checked the insides, it was still very runny so I figured maybe another 20 minutes would be enough time. But even after one hour, the mix was still runny. I finally took it out after baking for 1 ½ hours. It was done...but boy was it heavy. It got worse when I let it cool for a few hours. It was solid like a brick. In the trash it went.

I chuckled at all three incidences because I'm normally a pretty good cook. That's why I couldn't understand why my attempts at baking failed. Of course, that's when I heard: I never told you to make anything other than a Red Velvet Cake. It was a simple request but I'd messed it up.

I repented while preparing the cake, but hours later, I was looking at a beautiful Red Velvet Cake with cream cheese frosting and sprinkled with almonds. I was also glad because I thought I was losing my skills in the kitchen.

In the end, my friend got a cake and I got a great lesson about doing being 100% obedient when God tells me to do something for others. It is a way for God to bless others through us. However, depending on how we handle it, it may also turn out to be a reminder that we have the choice to be blessed through our obedience or struggle through disobedience.

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