God's Hand Made Chocolates

Chocolate is Fantastic. You can make so many different things with it and you can be Really Creative.

When we make our chocolates at home, we believe that to make the Best Quality Chocolates, we need the Best Quality Ingredients. So we use Organic Belgian Chocolate and we Never use any Artificial ingredients. We Believe that God has Created some Delicious Natural Flavours in our food and they taste so much better than the man made artificial stuff.

We Believe that Gods Way is the Best Way, so that's how we make our chocolates.

Now have a think about your Favourite Chocolate Flavour that you have ever tasted. The kind of chocolate that makes you Dribble just by thinking about it, that's how good it tastes. Somebody, somewhere has Followed a Recipe and used specific ingredients to make that chocolate that you find so enjoyable. With that in mind now think about Yourself as One of Gods Hand Made Chocolates. How can you be one of Gods Finest Chocolate Creations.

Well first you need to Follow a Recipe, and that Recipe is Gods Plan for your Life. God has got a Unique Recipe for each one of us because He's got Unique Plans for each of our lives. For some of us it might be Missionary work or training to be a Vicar. For some of us it might be calling in on a neighbour to give Love and Comfort to someone who's lonely. It might be looking after someone with a disability and Helping them live a more Enjoyable life. Or it could Simply be that you are such a Loving and Caring person that Gods Love just Shines through you to everyone you meet.

It doesn't matter how Big or Small the things you do, as long as you're Following Gods Plan then it's All Equally Important to God.

So we need to Follow Gods Recipe. And all Recipes need Ingredients. We need to use the Best Quality Ingredients in our lives. And God has Provided us with them in the form of the Fruits of The Spirit.

So lets have a look at how to make one of Gods Hand Made Chocolates. We Start with our Soul, our Heart, the Very Essence of who we are, and we are All Children of God. God wants the Best for us so He Blessed us all with a Beautiful Soul right from the very beginning. As the years go by though, our souls can become Influenced by negative things. But the Great thing is that if we Turn to God, He can Remelt our souls and Start again. One of the wonderful things about working with chocolate is that if we make a mistake, we can just Remelt the chocolate and Start again. And that's what God does in our lives. No matter what's happened to us in our lives, no matter how much we've messed up, if we Turn to God then He can Remelt us and we can make a Fresh Start.

So when we have Allowed God to Remelt our souls, we then need to give it a Really Good mix to get rid of all those Lumpy bits that give our chocolate a bad taste. Things like Anger, Hatred, Bitterness, things like Arrogance and Stubbornness. We need to get rid of all those lumpy bits because nobody likes a lumpy chocolate, we want it to be Smooth and Melt in your mouth.

So now comes the Fun bit. We can start adding all those Delicious Ingredients of The Fruits of The Spirit.

We start with <u>Love</u>. We need Lots of Love in our chocolate. Love is Thee most important ingredient in Gods Hand Made Chocolates, it's what holds all the other ingredients together.

Love is Patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love's the Best. You can never have too much Love.

The next ingredient is <u>Joy</u>. Chocolate gives Joy to people in lots of ways. It gives Joy when you eat it and when somebody gives you chocolate it can fill you with Joy. It also gives lots of Joy when you make chocolate, especially when you're Really Creative.

<u>Peace</u> is the next ingredient. Peace is a Wonderful thing to experience, it helps us to Connect with God. Also when we've run chocolate making days, some people have said they find it very therapeutic and relaxing, which is a form of Peace.

Our next ingredient is <u>Patience</u>. Chocolate making is very time consuming and we need a Lot of Patience, but it's all worth it when you see the Joy that it gives people when it's finished.

Kindness is next. When you give chocolate as a gift it's a very kind thing to do and it can be enough to brighten someone's day.

Next is <u>Goodness</u>. Cocoa has got lots of Natural Goodness in it. It's full of vitamins and minerals which are good for our bodies. So dark chocolate with a high cocoa content can be good for us.

<u>Faithfulness</u> is next. When we make our chocolate at home we put a lot of Faith in it that the chocolate will set and come out of the moulds. That's the same with our lives, there's a lot of things we do that we don't know if they will work or not, but we just need to put our Faith in God.

The next ingredient is <u>Gentleness</u>. Some of the chocolates we make are very delicate and we need to be gentle so we don't break them. For us to be one of Gods Delicious chocolates we need a to have a Gentle Spirit.

The last ingredient is <u>Self Control</u>. This speaks for itself when it comes to chocolate, that we don't eat too much of it, but get the Balance just right.

So when we've added all the ingredients we need to give it a Really Good mix to Combine all the ingredients together and Massage them Deep into our soul. Then we need to pour this Delicious mixture into a mould. We use plastic moulds for our chocolates. But God has got a Unique mould for everyone of us. Tailor Made by God for the Plan He has got for our lives.

We need to let the chocolate Rest. The Resting Stage is just as Important as the mixing and the ingredients. When we make our chocolates at home, if we don't let them rest properly then the chocolate wont set and we'll end up with a big chocolatey mess. We all need to make sure we Rest our Bodies and Minds. Make time to Relax and Rest, it's Very Important. If God Himself needed to Rest after all His hard work then surely we need to as well. As you rest, have a think about all the things you can be Grateful for in your lives. Think about the things we often take for granted, things like eyes to see, the ability to walk, a home to live in, the Beauty of a new sunrise everyday.

Most importantly think about how much God Loves You and that He is Always with you.

There's a lot to be Thankful for.

So now the chocolate's had a Lovely Rest and all those delicious Flavours have been Maturing Nicely. It's now ready to come out of the mould and share it's Beauty.

So the chocolate's now ready for packaging. When we package our chocolates at home ready for selling, we Believe in letting the chocolate speak for itself, so we don't use really over the top packaging because it can take it away from the chocolate itself. That's the same with our lives. We need to let all those Delicious ingredients of The Fruits of The Spirit Shine through in All that we do, and we can be Gods Beautiful Hand Made Chocolates. We can all be the kind of chocolate that gives Joy to other people's lives.

I Truly Believe that Every person reading this can be One of Gods Finest Chocolate Creations.

All you need to do is Follow the Recipe, Gods Wonderful Plan for your life.

Use the Best Quality Ingredients, those Delicious Fruits of The Spirit.

And Let God Melt your Heart and Fill you with a Delicious Centre, that just Oozes with His Love.

Amen.