

dec 3, 2022

pancakes anyone

six-year-old dan decided one saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. he found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

he scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

dan was covered with flour and getting frustrated. he wanted this to be something very good for mom and dad, but it was getting very bad.

he didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove, and he didn't know how the stove worked! suddenly, he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. frantically, he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

just then he saw dad standing at the door. big crocodile tears welled up in dan's eyes. all he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. he was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. but his father just watched him.

then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process. that's how God deals with us. we try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. our marriage gets all sticky, we insult a friend, we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour.

sometimes, we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. that's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him.

but just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying for God or for others. sooner or later, we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried.

-- author unknown

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many of us strive with the best intentions and sometimes it just all goes wrong. that doesn't have to mean it's a hopeless situation. God deals in hopelessness. "we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." rom 8:28