

Fortified with.....
By Steve Stutzman

The box reads..." fortified with 6 essential vitamins and minerals". Really. Wow.

Steve's sarcastic translation...." All food value has been removed, and replaced with things that will make your taste buds tingle. The final product then has been laced with embalming components, to keep anything from rotting. Oh yeah... And we slopped a little vitamin mineral compounds we know absolutely nothing whatsoever over the top, so it's good, cuz we care about your health!"

In reality, a person may be nutritionally ahead to just dump the cereal and eat the box. Yet somehow, the clever marketing keeps us buying wildly overpriced, nutritionally deficient boxes of chocolate flavored, dextrose coated, sugar bombs, and consuming them. Fortified, of course, with ESSENTIAL vitamins.

I really don't care that much how you eat, or what. The thing that troubles me is the state of mind that allows us to continue in pathways that are, for all practical purposes, not smart. We do it, not because we do not know better, but because we like it. We have become victims of our own appetites, bound by chains of our own making.

Which remind me frighteningly of contemporary Christianity. We took the real (grain) gospel, and crushed it.....dissecting carefully, we picked thru it and extracted the "good" stuff. Yum!! No more of anything negative or anything I don't like!! Scrumptious, we all agreed. After all, aren't all the promises of God " yea and amen?" And didn't Jesus die for ME? So anything in the gospel that doesn't make me feel warm and fuzzy can't be God at all. Must be some religious spirit or something..... You can't force nutrition on me! Besides that, I have my ticket to heaven, so who cares what I do?

Then of course, deep inside, we know something is wrong. We begin various stages of malnutrition..... Potbellied Christians (paunch but not fed...) , skinny ams (unable to lift) , bulging eyes (looking for anything that might satisfy), and general dullness of mind. So, we begin to add ESSENTIAL vitamins and minerals..... More, louder, worship.....babblings..... Dancing..... Tooting horns.....seminars....hoopla.....character training..... Rules.....separatism..... Freedom.... Ministry styles..... Healings Serpents..... Laughter..... Experiences galore. These, we affirm, are the essentials, the very vitamins and minerals of LIFE. Funny, tho..... The malnutrition seems to get worse. Not much left to do but continue on, and encourage one another in our delirious, mind-numbed state. Buy another box.

Of course, there is an alternative.....(are you ready for this?? Please unwrap the pet snake from around your neck and place it back in the cage. What I am about to say has a tendency to rile up snakes and make them biting mad.)..... We could go BACK. We could repent of our cell- phone, space-age snooty pride and go back..... Back to the gospel of Jesus Christ.... Back to a concept of the gospel that was centered on a Holy God, instead of a sinful man..... Back to the thought processes and concepts that held men's souls while their bodies were burned at a stake..... Back to where the world feared and hated the very LIFE lived in front of them..... Back to a true change of heart-not mind, heart- and a filling with a Spirit that insists on Holy,..... Back to a power that could not be stopped, even by death. We could go back to where we dissected the gospel, and repent. Well, we could.

But..... That would require a bit of humility. That seems to be one of the non-essential minerals we passed over as unnecessary. And work. That would not be funzies.... Can't have that. A deep, heart wrenching repentance.... Coming from a real fear of God, provoking a serious, careful clearing of lives. All vitamins we passed over as useless. And , it requires a seeking after a real knowledge of a very real Christ..... Thru the experience of a truly horrible cross. Wrap your arms around it..... Or just grab another box. Preferably with NEW vitamins.....