

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



IVAN'S WATERMELON

"Wow! That was delicious! Sweet and watery, like a waterfall of sugary dew. The shade of red that only God could invent. And a crispness that crackled as I bit into it. The taste-bud enhancing climax to a Sunday lunch. Thanks Ivan.

Half a watermelon had been delivered by a neighbour, an ex-farmer who still grows watermelons in a large open area and shares them with his neighbours. Tended with love and care and surrounded by its hard rind, the flesh within had been kept safe from pests and matured into what God had planned it to be; sweet and pleasing.

That rind, skin, is a lot like the love of God. It surrounds us. You may not want to recognise it, but I believe what is written in His Word. A king who had a genuine friendship with the God of the Bible wrote. "You have surrounded me *on every side*, behind me and before me, and You have placed Your hand *gently* on my *shoulder*. It is the most fantastic feeling to know *how deeply* You know me, *inside and out*; *the realization* of it is so great that I cannot comprehend it. Can I go anywhere apart from Your Spirit? Is there anywhere I can go to escape Your *watchful* presence? (**Psalm 139:5-7**)

King David said that God's amazing love, care, and protection are all around you. You don't have to feel anxious afraid. When someone makes fun of you, trust God is there saying, "What that person says is irrelevant. To me, you are precious."

God and his love is much stronger and surrounds you completely. His plan is that your life should not be turned to a pulp by worry and fear. When anxious for what life might be throwing at you, remember his promises to protect you. Remember, the firm skin of the watermelon kept the soft inside from being turned to pulp in a thunderstorm.

God doesn't surround us with his love solely for our personal benefit. The melons being was to bring pleasure and nourishment. If the melon had just laid in the garden, it would have eventually turned rotten and been of no use to anyone. God has a reason for our being. He plans that we will bring enjoyment, nourishment and growth to the lives of those we daily touch. A kind word of encouragement, a friendly smile, and sharing a story of God's love in your life. There are many ways can help another to feel the all-encompassing love and care we all need to experience from time to time.

Don't be afraid to talk to God about these things.

God bless, Kevin.