



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

## SOUL FOOD



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD CHIT'LINS, BLACK-EYED PEAS AND HAM HOCKS? OR MAYBE YOU PREFER CHICKEN FRIED STEAK WITH HOMINY, HUSHPUPIES AND SWEET POTATO PIE. THESE FOODS, INDICATIVE OF THE SOUTHERN STATES AND ADAPTED FROM AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE, CAME TO BE KNOWN IN THE 1960'S AS SOUL FOOD. MY GRANDMOTHER NEVER LIVED IN THE SOUTH YET SHE LOVED DANDELION GREENS AND MADE THE BEST MUSH I'VE EVER HAD. THEN TOO GRANDMA NEARLY LIVED ON FRIED CHICKEN COOKED IN LARD (AND AMAZINGLY LIVED TO THE AGE OF 102!). THOUGH THEY MAY BE TASTY, THESE FOODS SATURATED WITH HIGH AMOUNTS OF FAT, CHOLESTEROL AND SODIUM REALLY HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER THE HEALTHY EATER.

SO CONSIDER WITH ME ANOTHER TYPE OF SOUL FOOD. THE PROPHET JEREMIAH SPEAKS OF IT LIKE THIS, "YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORDS BECAME FOR ME A JOY AND THE DELIGHT OF MY HEART; FOR I HAVE BEEN CALLED BY YOUR NAME, O LORD GOD OF HOSTS." (JEREMIAH 15:16 NASV).

YOU MAY RECALL THAT JEREMIAH IS KNOWN AS "THE WEEPING PROPHET." HE PREACHED LONG AND HARD AND NO ONE LISTENED. IN FACT MOST OF JEREMIAH'S PREACHING MET WITH RESISTANCE AND OPPRESSION. HE REMINDS GOD THAT EVERYONE CURSES HIM (15:10) AND THAT HE IS ENDURING REPROACH FOR GOD'S SAKE (15:15); AND EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN FAITHFUL TO GOD HIS PAIN HAS BEEN PERPETUAL (15:18).

SO WHERE DOES A PERSECUTED PROPHET FIND RELIEF? HE EATS SOUL FOOD!

THIS TROUBLED MAN OF GOD CAME ACROSS THE WORDS OF GOD AND RIGHTLY RESPONDED BY EATING THEM. THE IDEA IS THAT JEREMIAH MADE GOD'S WORD A PART OF HIMSELF. AND WHEN HE DID HE DISCOVERED THAT THOSE WORDS OF GOD AFFECTED HIM IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY. GOD'S WORD AFFECTED HIS HEART OR LITERALLY HIS INNER MAN, THE PART WE MIGHT REFER TO AS THE SOUL. AND WHAT BECAME THE CONDITION OF JEREMIAH'S INNER MAN WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED GOD'S WORD? JOY AND DELIGHT FLOODED HIS SOUL. JOY INDICATES A CELEBRATION AND DELIGHT IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH FEASTING. WHEN JEREMIAH GOT AHOLD OF GOD'S WORD IT BECAME A FEAST FOR HIS FAMISHED SOUL AND A CELEBRATION FOR AN OTHERWISE SAD MAN!

WHAT ARE WE EATING AND HOW ARE WE FEEDING OUR INNER MAN? I'D RECOMMEND SOUL FOOD!

LOOKING UP,  
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE