

Craving Perfection

by Cassie Foreman



Book Title: Craving Manna, A gluten-free momma's journey to craving nothing but our daily bread

* Each chapter will include a recipe and a series of questions /bible study guide for moms

Do you ever have days with perfect lists, maybe it's the plan for a perfectly clean home or a perfectly planned out meal? Everything neatly tied in bows, edges sewn...total perfection, or so it seems. Then with no explanation, no magic formula, all "you know what" breaks loose. Have you ever experienced one of those days?

The first day of school was THAT day. I woke up ready to face the day and nothing really jived within our home even though my lists were perfectly planned out. We woke up late, couldn't find the baby wipes for my 3 year old's stinky diaper, my 7 year old turned into an emotional teenager, and my 9 year old sprouted a second head for a brief moment as he ranted about not liking his school shoes. To top it all off after school drop-off I spill my highly coveted back-to-school celebration coffee, in the parking lot on the way back to my car. It was a small tragedy for any momma. The coffee spill caused me to stop and clean myself up. As I did, I reflected on my crazy morning.

There was a conversation that happened with my daughter Anna in route to school. She admitted that her morning meltdown came as a result of jealousy towards her brother. We talked about not allowing anything to define our worth, but Jesus. I told Anna that if she looks to others to make her happy, to determine her self-worth she will always turn up empty and emotional. If she fixes her eyes

on Jesus, our beautiful creator and perfecter of faith, she can wake up every single day joyful in Him. Was I joyful in the midst of my morning of imperfections or was I frazzled and upset about the circumstances around me? Were my eyes fixed on our perfect Jesus or on my messy morning? Advice I shared with my daughter which was really intended for...me.

Sometimes, I work really hard to make my life a quilted masterpiece. Every edge sewn perfectly, every pattern in its place then life happens and I'm brought to a place of realizing my craving of perfection keeps me from my need for a Savior. No matter how perfect my accomplished to-do list, no matter how perfectly matched my children's outfits are, no matter how clean my home is and no matter how many nights I have the perfect dinner on the table by 6:00pm...there will always be imperfection. There will always be something that disrupts the flow of perfection. There will always be the beautiful mess of life.

My craving for perfection has led me to a place on my knees because I know that as soon as I started to crave a perfect Savior everything in my life changed. Transformation in my life happened when I went from craving perfection to craving a perfect Savior.

You see, true joy happens when we focus on a perfect Savior and not the perfection of our life circumstances. Have you asked God to help you stop seeking perfection, but seek Him instead? Jesus Christ is the only thing perfect in our lives, and his word alone is perfect. He is all the perfection you will ever need. When we fix our eyes on the master of our circumstances, our to-do lists fade as the race marked out for us becomes clear. Our lives are about more than the perfect morning, they are about craving a perfect Savior each and every day.

Hebrews 12:1-3 says:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him

who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”