



More than a Kitchen Gadget

Several years ago I flew to the Northwest, rented a car, and toured the countryside, stopping occasionally to visit with family and friends. One of my stops was in small town in eastern Oregon where our family lived over 30 years ago. It was fun catching up with a friend who still lives there. She reminded me of people and events I'd long forgotten. We talked about many things, including our relationship with God. Several times through the course of our conversation, she tossed in information about her new onion chopper. I thought it was strange that she was so eager to talk about a kitchen gadget, but she lives in a small town—maybe there isn't much in her life to get excited about.

Toward the end of my visit my curiosity got the best of me, and I asked to see the onion chopper. My friend smiled brightly and led me to her kitchen. It was obvious that she was anxious to show off her prized possession. The onion chopper—plain, white, and small—sat on the counter by itself. It was definitely not much to look at. I wasn't impressed, though I was careful not to let her know. Just another kitchen gadget, I thought to myself, as my friend exclaimed—"Every kitchen should have one of these!"

We said our good-byes, and I set out for the next stop on my trip. I never thought about the onion chopper again, until one Saturday about six weeks after I returned home. I couldn't believe my eyes when my husband proudly presented me with a kitchen gadget he'd picked up at a yard sale. I looked at the box and remarked, "It's really interesting that you should bring me an onion chopper. My friend in eastern Oregon has one, and she can't stop talking about it."

He immediately brightened up, "You wanted one?" A true prospector at heart, my husband gets excited whenever he finds hidden treasure, even if it's at a yard sale. I replied slowly, being careful not to squelch his excitement. "I can't say I really wanted one, but I am curious. I'll check it out. Maybe I'll like it?" I cleaned it up and planned a meal that required chopped onions. I was anxious to see what the fuss was all about.

While preparing dinner I put onions in the chopper and turned it on. Nothing happened. I was a bit disappointed, but what did I expect from a kitchen gadget! I ended up chopping the onions the old fashioned way. While I was putting the chopper back in the box, I spied the instructions hiding at the bottom. Not one to give up easily, I decided to read them to see if I had done something wrong. Sure enough, I hadn't put the chopper together right. I made the correct adjustments, plugged it in, and pushed the button. It worked! At that point I decided it was a keeper. I put the onion chopper on the kitchen counter where it sat, plain and unnoticed for several months. Whenever my menus required cut up vegetables, I forgot I had an onion chopper until after I finished chopping.

One evening as I walked through the kitchen, my eye fell on the onion chopper. I said a silent prayer, 'Lord God, please help me remember to use the onion chopper tomorrow when I am preparing the egg dish.' Several ladies from church were coming for brunch. I knew I would be in a hurry. It would be a perfect time to test my kitchen gadget—if I could only remember to use it.

The next morning when I opened the refrigerator to take out ingredients for the egg dish, God spoke to my heart and reminded me of the onion chopper. I whispered "Thank you, God!" and reached for the chopper. Of course, after all this time I had forgotten how to put it together, but I finally got it right and whoosh. Wow! This thing really works. It saved so much time!

As I was thinking about my amazing kitchen gadget, God began to talk to me. 'Your friend was so excited about her onion chopper she couldn't stop talking about it. You were so unimpressed, you forgot about it. Hasn't it occurred to you that I was talking to you through your friend? You never mentioned an onion chopper to your husband. Yet, I directed him to this treasure and inspired him to purchase it for you. If I care enough about you to make sure you have an onion chopper that you don't know you need, how much more will I take care to provide the really important things for you?'

Finally, I saw the bigger picture. God inspired my friend to talk about her onion chopper, so he could teach me how purposefully he works out every detail of my life. The onion chopper was a tool in God's hands, and it is a tool I place proudly on my kitchen counter. It is so much more than a kitchen gadget. Every kitchen should have one!

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