**Please Pass Me Those Peas**

(Psalm 34:8 KJV)

*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

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hen you have completed one year and proceeded into another year—the question arises, "what can you do for good luck in the year to come?" Surprisely, our nation might have a vibrant variety of good luck rituals that might bring you superstitious prosperity and peace. Here are some of the things that we believe that bring ourselves good luck. The gambler thinks blowing on the dice will bring him luck. Whereas others want to rub the hand of a "lucky" person to get some of their lucked rubbed onto themselves. There are those who desire wearing a rabbit’s feet on key chains for good luck. And there are those who even wear dimes around their ankles. So we must admit that looking for good luck is not untraditional universally.

**Here are some more traditional superstitions**:

* Friday the thirteenth is an unlucky day.
* If a black cat crosses your path you will have bad luck.
* To break a mirror will bring you seven years bad luck.
* To open an umbrella in the house is to bring bad luck.
* At the end of a rainbow is a pot of gold.
* An itchy palm means money will come your way.
* A bird that comes in your window brings means that death is on the way.
* If the bottom of your feet itches, you will take a trip.
* When a dog howls, death is near.
* It is bad luck to sweep someone’s feet with a broom, so then you spit on the broom straws to reverse the bad luck.
* Then there are those who honestly believe that eating Black Eyed Peas on New Year's Day will bring good luck.

On New Year’s day it is said that a helping of black eyed peas on the plate guarantees good luck. And many people laugh until they get stitches in the side at this custom, but they still serve the peas anyway, just in case there’s some truth in the old saying. The African-American community celebrates Jubilee Day on January 1st—because it's the day that slaves were freed in rebelling states on January 1, 1863 under the presidency of President Abraham Lincoln who signed the Proclamation of Emancipation to free the slaves. So, to commemorate jubilee day, black folks eat the food of slavery: Hog Jowls, Chitterlings, Hog Maws, Tripe, Sweet Potatoes, Okra and Black Eyed Peas with delicious cornbread commonly known as “soul foods.” And I must add that couldn't nobody clean it, wash it, cook it and bake it like big momma! Now the myth is that, "those who forget where they came from and choose not to eat the memorial meal on Jubilee Day would have bad luck and be returned to slavery. So this is why we do what we do, and sometimes we don't know the historical background because of a lack of knowledge.

Now depending on cultural backgrounds, different foods come with the new year's tradition. The Japanese eat long noodles. The Greeks bake a special bread. In Spain, the custom is to eat 12 individual grapes in the 12 seconds leading up to the new year. Anthropologists say that eating certain foods to change one’s fortune dates back to ancient Babylonia. Moreover, in looking for good luck, even those who claim not to believe in this superstition, say "Please Pass Me Those Peas!"

While there are some who spend a majority of their time looking for luck by eating peas, dashing salt and killing hogs, there are others who don’t count on luck, they look to God for their blessings. He was the source of the blessings in years past and will be the source of blessings in the years to come.

So, I'm optimistically inclined to see if you wouldn’t mind today, sitting at the table of fellowship to enjoy some good ole fashioned peas? But! There are some serious stipulations! You must be willing to share and not hog the table, and when I say, "Please Pass Me Those Peas" you won’t mind sharing because there’s enough **P’s** on the table to go around for everybody.

1. **The First Dish of P’s I Would Like For You To Pass Is Prayer:**

I first must pause and begin by saying that “**David**” has been invited to the table to commune with the Lord. And surely David in the text has a right to testify: “*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him*” (Psalm 34:8 KJV). He has agreed to pass the dish of **P’s** to show us how he made it through these trials of life! Whenever David had undergone a difficult time in life, verse seven gives us a tender idea of what God did for him!

(Psalm 34:7 KJV)

*The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*