##  The Right Ingredients of the Church

There was a story of a young boy who loved eating cookies and often would spend time helping his mother bake a batch of cookies. One day while mother was gone and all his friends were gone to church camp, this boy decided to make a batch of cookies. He mixed all the ingredients together and placed them into the oven. The timer went off and to the amazement of the little boy, they smelled and looked perfect but when the boy bit into the cookie, he realized something was wrong. The cookies all crumbled apart in his mouth and they tasted horrible! You see, while he was mixing up the ingredients, he placed 1 tablespoon of soda instead of ¼ teaspoon. He decided to put in more vanilla because it smelled so good. All that he had hoped for was ruined because he did not follow the recipe.

Many Christians do the same as this little boy, ignoring instruction (God's Word) and not willing to change (Repentance), but expecting different results. 2 Timothy 2:15 reads, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” We are to study God's word and apply those ingredients into our daily walk. So many Christians are not willing to change or comply with God's recipe. Hebrews 5:12-14 says, “For when the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach ye again with be the first oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. For strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Too many churches in America are facing church problems because of having the wrong ingredients inside their church leadership. They have become ineffective and no longer in a place where God expects every church to be. Many of the churches and pastors are ineffective because of “ being pulled ” down by the “babes” of the church, demanding all of pastor's attention and demanding the use of a bottle. This may seem very critical, but in truth, American churches are full of “immature Christians” who prefer to be bottle-fed instead of walking where God desires every Christian to be—those who prefer strong meat and can distinguish between good and evil.

Most of the problems in the church today are very insignificant and are usually self-centered. If the church desires to be the church that God can use, it has to follow the ingredients within the Bible, not subtracting things we do not like or adding anything different. God desires for us to be a vessel of honor, a lighthouse and used for His glory, not ours. God has a purpose and plan for every individual but it up for us to change.

My prayer for the American church is for her to rise up, seek the things of God, repent, and walk in the revelation of what God expects the church to be—alive, well, and growing. People in America are looking for a real church with real people who really care.