

A Recipe for Holiness
Psalm 25
June 2, 2002

How many SpongeBob fans do we have this morning?
Do you remember the episode when SpongeBob made his "Sundae Recipe"?
He used ketchup, onions, and peanuts from his peanut tree that he kept in his bathroom.
If you recall, the ingredients he used gave him "rancid breath" - his breath stunk!

This morning I want to bring to you seven ingredients from God's word that will not give you rancid breath but will help you to walk in holiness (Wholly His)!

Psalm 25 , written by David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, given to us for our instruction.

David - a shepherd boy
chosen by God
adulterer, murderer, poet, musician, warrior

He earned public respect and trust, yet he forfeited all when his eyes and thoughts were in the wrong place, his authority was the facilitator which led him into a brief season of sexual sin.

David had the wrong recipe from the wrong cookbook, like SpongeBob, it stunk!

How many of us have a favorite recipe? How many times have we ran to the cupboard just to find we are missing a key ingredient? So what do we do? We substitute it with one that is less desirable and hope that in the end it will taste good.

Remember David - his recipe on that rooftop was one with human ingredients...

1. David became so involved in his kingship, he lost control of his family - Absalom slept with his father's concubines, murdered some of his brothers, and led a revolt against his father.

Read about it in 2 Samuel chapter's 12-16.

2. David indulged himself in extremes of passion, he did everything with all his heart!

3. David fell to his own demise - look how good and great I am! He had the Me-Myself and I ingredient. If you recall he had Joab (commander of David's army) take a census of how many people were in the army so he could see how great and vast was his kingdom. He forget that it was God you gives every good and perfect gift! David had the ingredient of pride.

Did David need God's recipe? Oh yes, let's now look at Psalm 25 to see the seven ingredients for holiness.

1. **Promise** - verse 3 - our hope and trust is IN God, our focus should be heavenward, He is faithful.

2. **Guidance** - verse 4,5 - show me - God's ways for my life
- teach me - God's direction for my life
- guide me - God's word to encourage and strengthen my faith

It's all about you and the Lord, it is He whose hand is open, it is He who waits patiently for you to open your hand and let Him lead and guide you.

3. **Plea's to God** - verse 6,7 - this should be the cry of our heart, looking for His mercy, love and forgiveness

4. **The Cross** - verse 8-11 - notice how David describes the Lord

- Good & Upright - this looks to the Cross where Jesus went for you and I because He loves us.
- Instruction - the Cross reveals the way of redemption
- Faithful - the Cross is for those who are humble enough to confess their sin and understand that it was all God's plan. See 1 Cor 1:18

5. **Wisdom** - verse 12 -14 - which is the capacity to see things from God's viewpoint. These verses tell us that godly wisdom will lead us to honor God by our lifestyle, our character, our submission to our

husbands and wives, those in authority. We must be alert, seeking, ready to listen for His voice. If we do this, God will reveal himself and His plan for you.

6. **Empowerment** - verse 15 - The Lord will confide in you when you live for Him, it is He who has the power to unveil Satan's traps and who can keep us from his bondage. We need to have the ingredients of holiness, our focus is to be heavenward. Listen to the words of Jesus in John 15:14,15

7. **Prayer** - verse 16 -20 - Do you have the same reasons to pray as David did? We all suffer from affliction, anguish and sin. Our world is fallen, infected, polluted and under the power of Satan. Turn those reasons to requests. God will take you through step by step, day by day until we come to the glorious day when we see Him face to face.

Take these seven divine ingredients that God has made available, the promise of God, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, mix it with God's wisdom, our plea's and prayers, you will find the divine recipe for holiness. This recipe was designed by God when Jesus went to the Cross for you and I so that we could be empowered by His grace to be "something good" - HOLY....