

# Half-Baked Cakes (Christians)

A Christian may be “well done” in the outward show of religion but “raw and doughy” in inward religion.

*Hosea 7:8*

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Bible uses metaphors to illustrate important Bible lessons:
  - a. Fountain of life (Proverbs 13:14 - teaching is compared to a fountain)
  - b. Clay and potter (Isaiah 64:8 - God is compared to a potter who molds clay)
  - c. Rock (Deuteronomy 32:4 - God is commonly referred to as a rock)
2. Hosea 7:8 - describes Israel as a half-baked cake
3. Hosea takes us back about 2700-2800 years to a woman's kitchen in Israel to teach us a valuable lesson about making alliances with the wrong group of people.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

"My people mingle with the heathen, picking up their evil ways; thus they become as good-for-nothing as a half-baked cake!" (Hosea 7:8 TLB)

# 1

## Background/Context

### EXPLANATION

A. Hosea is a book of poems prophesying during King Jeroboam II, one of Israel's worst kings.

1. The nation was descending into chaos, and finally, the Assyrians exiled most of the Israelites, others they murdered ("**They will fall by the sword, their little ones will be dashed in pieces, and their pregnant women will be ripped open.**" [Hosea 13:6](#)).
2. The book records Hosea's broken marriage to illustrate Israel's relationship with God:
  - a. marriage - Exodus
  - b. Adultery - Mt. Sinai, the golden calf, and other incidents of idolatry - also, Israel making alliances with Assyria and Egypt instead of trusting in God.
  - c. restoration - one day, God would send the Messiah through the Davidic line
3. Consequences: Nations would punish Israel

B. Themes:

1. Israel has rebelled, and there will be severe consequences, but God's love and mercy are more powerful than Israel's sins
2. Israel lacks YADA (relationship knowledge) - they know the ten commandments, go to the temple, but then go to idol temples! Then they paid tribute to Assyria and Egypt for protection when God had promised to protect them.

C. Hosea gives them an ancient history lesson 12-13

1. Jacob's treachery from the womb, stealing the blessing, contending with God, and fighting with the angel (Genesis 27-28)
2. Israel's rebellion in the wilderness (Numbers 12-20)
3. Israel demanded a king, and they chose King Saul (1 Samuel 12-15)
4. Israel comes from a long line of liars, grumblers, and treachery; some things in this family never change.

## ILLUSTRATION

In the middle of Hosea's message, he uses an illustration to describe Israel's spiritual condition. He calls them a cake unturned or a half-baked cake.

**"Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned."**

**Hosea 7:8**

- What does this illustration mean?
  - They mingled with nations and, at the same time, considered themselves to be the consecrated people of God.
  - They worshipped God and, at the same time, worshipped idols.
  - They offered sacrifices to God, and at the same time, they kissed the calf.
  - Their religion and spirituality were half-baked, fence straddlers, or as Christ called it in Revelation, "lukewarm." (**Revelation 3:15-16**; **"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth."**)

## 2

# Christians Can be Half-Baked in their Spirituality

## EXPLANATION

A. Well done in the outward, half-baked on the inside

1. **Matthew 15:8**; "This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me."
2. **Matthew 23:25-28**; "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may also become clean. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So you too, outwardly appear righteous to people, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."
3. Exegesis

B. Well done in hearing, but half-baked in doing

1. **James 1:22-25**; "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the *law* of freedom, and has continued *in it*, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does."
2. Ready to serve on the outside but raw in actually serving

C. Well done in Sunday morning attendance, half-baked in Sunday pm and

## Wednesday night attendance

1. Remember, we are to be concerned about the equipping of the saints for the building of the church. If we have the ability and opportunity to attend in person, then we have the responsibility to each other to attend. (Ephesians 4:15-16; Hebrews 10:25-26)
2. Let's turn the cake and get fully baked, fully committed to our God and brethren.

D. A Christian may be half-baked in the sense of being a friend of the world while trying to be a friend of God.

1. **James 4:4; "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."**
2. Israel tried to be friends with many nations, especially Assyria. Assyria stabbed her in the back when she was done with Israel. The world (the devil) will do the same to us.
3. **"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."** (Ephesians 6:12)

E. A Christian may be well done in laying up treasures on earth but raw in laying up treasures in heaven.

1. Luke 12:13-21 -Brother wanted Jesus to divide the family inheritance. Jesus was not concerned with earthly treasures.
2. Greed and dishonesty in money dealings have always been an issue among God's people. This was an issue Hosea reminded Israel about: **"A merchant, in whose hands are fraudulent balances, Loves to exploit. And Ephraim said, "I have certainly become rich, I have found wealth for myself; In all my labors they will find in me No wrongdoing, which *would be* sin."** (Hosea 12:7-8)
3. This is one of the reasons why many today are half-baked Christians; we are too concerned about earthly treasures and not storing up treasures in heaven.

F. Consequences - Wherever they go, punishment and destruction will follow them (Hosea 7:12-13)

1. **"When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will discipline them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly. Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they have spoken lies against Me."**
2. Half-baked cake cannot be served; if served, it won't be eaten; it will be thrown out!
3. Most of the time, a lukewarm person, a half-baked Christian, a cake not turned, is insensitive to their situation. They have no idea - their conscience has been seared. **"Strangers devour his strength, Yet he does not know it; Gray hairs also are sprinkled on him, Yet he does not know it."** (Hosea 7:9). *Good News Bible* "The people of Israel are like a half-baked loaf of bread. They rely on the nations around them and do not realize that this reliance on foreigners has robbed them of their strength. Their days are numbered, but they don't even know it."

### 3

## How Can We Keep from Being Half-Baked Cakes?

### EXPLANATION

A. Accept that with God, it is all or nothing! Not halfway.

1. **Matthew 6:24**; "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."
2. **Luke 9:62**; "But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

## B. Pay more attention to spiritual things.

1. Like a baker who follows a recipe and sets temperatures and timers, so must we when it comes to our spiritual life.
2. Grow in the ways God wants us to grow, only adding what He wants us to add to our lives and eliminating what is bad.
3. Never compromise with evil; rather, expose them.
4. Be hearers of the Word and doers of the Word.
5. **2 Peter 1:5-8**; "**Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"
6. **Hebrews 6:1**; "**Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,**"
7. **Ephesians 5:9-11**; "**(for the fruit of the light *consists* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), as you try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the useless deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them"**
8. **James 1:22**; "**But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves."**

## CONCLUSION

1. If you realize you have been a half-baked Christian, repent and dedicate your service to Christ.
2. Ephraim mixed their ways with the ways of the world; they adopted the ways of the world, and as a result, they lived as part-time Christians. This was a sin and repulsive to God. God was completely and total commitment. He wants the same

relationship you expect from your partner.

3. When Christ took the form of man, He was completely committed to the plan because He was completely committed to you and me.
4. Plan of salvation.