

# Like cake, right church ingredients important

By Chap. (Capt.) Jeremy Pickens  
1ST BN, 18TH INF. REGT., 2ND ABrCT

What is it about cake that makes it so enticing? Is it the eggs or the flour that makes cake irresistible to most? Maybe it is the icing or the drizzling of chocolate that makes our mouths water. Maybe it is the sugar and the butter that calls us to take another bite.

It is not one item in the cake, but a collective whole of items when mixed and baked to perfection that causes our mouths to water and our taste buds to sing in joy.

The same is true when we

look at our faith. We cannot separate church attendance, the need for daily devotionals, spending time in prayer or fellowshiping with others. You see, if we separate each one, we risk having a faith that is flat, bitter and/or underprepared.

There may be some of us who have had a bad piece of cake and have vowed never to try it again; however, the only thing that was wrong could have been how the cake was prepared. The person who prepared the cake may not have taken the time to grease the pan, measure all the ingredients or have the

right kind of pan to bake the cake in. All of these things are important. The chef may have had good intentions when he or she started, only to fail in the presentation.

There may be some of us who have had a bad experience with a church, pastor, chaplain, believer or a community. The people who have pushed us away may have had good intentions. However, they left a bitter flavor on our spiritual palate. It may be time for us explore a different cake shop, try a different chef or a different kind of cake all together. All bakeries make cake. Each one has specialties that appeal to different customers.

Fort Riley is a community of rich religious diversity. The approaching holiday season is a great time to explore that diversity and find a chapel or church community that speaks to you. Take the opportunity to visit a worship service, or talk with friends or coworkers to find out where they worship.

No matter what your faith background is, take time this season to find a worshipping community with which to connect. Allow your spirit to achieve its potential. May God fill your life in this holiday season.