THE YEAST

"A little yeast works through the whole butch of dough." (Galatians 5:9)

Scientifically, yeast is a single celled living organism, usually rounded fungi that produce by budding. Yeast causes fermentation so it is well known by everyone as a substance use in brewing and baking. When a baker adds little yeast to a measure of flour, the whole dough increases in size and becomes soft, delicious, and spongy big loaves of bread when baked. A little yeast enlarges the dough and multiplies the loaves of bread that all of us daily eat. Although there are some kinds of yeast that causes infection to the human body, dried yeasts which are usually a by-product of brewing industry is a natural source of protein and B-complex vitamins. The action and effect of yeast is also used in the Bible, within the frame that little can change much.

The truth that we should be aware of is this: little part can change many to either good or bad, depending on the kind or quality of the substance.

Little yeast can change many to good:

- 1. "The Kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." (Matthew 13:33) God revealed His kingdom to men after He sent His Son, Jesus to earth. He sent Him to be born to a virgin who without knowing a man, found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was born as a baby and grew up as a child. When He became a man around thirty years old, He started to preach the Kingdom of God, perform miracles, heal the sick, and drive out demons. Many people believed and followed Jesus. They repented from their sins and accepted Him as Lord and Savior who died on the cross paying the price of sin. Jesus, a man with heavenly power and authority, acted and is still acting to change the whole world, bringing people from sin and death into the life of righteousness. "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ." (Romans 5: 19)
- 2. "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5: 13,14) Little of light will abolish big field of darkness, e.g. moon in the night. As well, a little of salt can dramatically change the taste of the food. The effect of the light and the salt is also like yeast. Little of them bring a lot of good changes. Jesus urged his followers to be as effective and as good as light and salt with great impact; showing love, mercy and kindness, good relationship, holiness and integrity to the people around them as they live in the family, society, community, city and in the world.

Little yeast can change many to bad:

1. "Be careful," Jesus said to them, "be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." (Matthew 16:6) The Pharisees and the Sadducees are examples of hypocrite people. They love the places of honor. They serve God with greed in their hearts. What they say and what they do is entirely opposite in reality. They pervert truth in order to excuse themselves and to justify their obvious shortcoming. The yeast that

Jesus warned here is not the yeast used for bread but about the false and bad teaching and example of these kinds of people.

- 2. "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." (Matthew 7:15) These kind of people claim that God has sent them and they carry new message or teaching that they say from God. Thousands and millions of people are led astray by false prophets with destructive heresies. "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you." (2 Peter 2:1) Then how do we know them? Jesus said, "By their fruit you will recognize them." They will bring fighting, strife, division, promoting jealousy, fits of rage, impurity, sexual immorality, and the like. They are like a spark of fire in the dry field that spread widely destroying the whole field.
- 3. "If your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell." (Matthew 5:29-30) Certain part of the body can be the bad yeast that spoils the whole body. The eye can see evil things that spoil the mind and cause the heart of man to sin. The hand can be used to kill, to steal or spoil. "Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts." As it conveys false or wrong message, it is like a fire consuming not only others but corrupting the whole person. (Please read James 3: 5-8 from your Bible) Also, the heart can be an example of bad yeast. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man unclean." (Matthew 15:19-20) "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve." (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

This is a warning message: Are you good yeast? Remember, there is great reward in heaven. Are you bad yeast? Beware, there is great fire waiting in hell. Be careful for you can be good yeast that will make others good and useful, or you can be bad yeast that will spoil many as well as yourself. This fact applies to your profession, ministry, family, social and personal life. What you impart to people who live, work and who are under your care is also like yeast that after sometime will grow to be effective or infectious. Be aware as well from being led astray by bad yeast. Be alert and discerning. Read the word of God and pray continuously.

My Dear and Beloved: The yeast which spoils the whole batch of dough there is no hope to recovery. But the good news is, even you are a bad yeast or an affected person by a bad yeast, still you can be changed to a righteous person if you submit yourself to God through the Lord Jesus Christ:

My Prayer: Father God in heaven, I come to You in the name of the Lord Jesus who died for me on the cross. Cleanse me from wrong things and wicked ways. Forgive me my sins, and lead me into Your path. Help me to be a good example for others and be Your good witness in this world. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.