

THE BASICS

“COOKIES TO CONCRETE”

BASIC Recipe: ½ cup butter, ¾ cup brown sugar, ½ cup granulated sugar, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1 ½ cup all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, ½ teaspoon salt, 3 cups uncooked oatmeal.

OPTIONAL Ingredients: 1 cup raisins, 1 cup chocolate chips, ½ cup chopped nuts.

You must follow the **BASIC** recipe exactly, in order for the cookies to turn out right. If you try to substitute or replace any of the ingredients with artificial ingredients, the end results will not be the same.

Sometimes our ministry contradicts our message. Have we left out the **SALT**? Or, has our **SALT** lost its saltiness? (Matthew 5:13). We have substituted:

Entertainment for Evangelism

Happiness for Holiness

Convenience for Character

Tolerance for Integrity

Nothing replaces the genuine article. Go back to the **BASICS**. “You have forsaken the love you had at first... Repent and do the things you did at first” (Revelation 2:4-5 NIV).

Start with a “Firm Foundation.” When building a house, there are **BASIC** rules that must be followed: Everything needs to be square, plumb, level, and straight. The very first block laid must be perfectly level and square (The Cornerstone). Everything depends upon it. If you make any compromises or take any shortcuts, the structure will not hold together for long.



I remember trying to remodel a house that was not built to “code.” Nothing was straight or level; it was a nightmare and very difficult to correct_(see Matthew 7:24-27). Wallpaper and trim don’t help if your structure isn’t sound.

You are God’s people “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”_(Ephesians 2:20-22).

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame”_(1Peter 2:6 and Isaiah 28:16).

Follow the **BASICS** or your cookies may turn out like concrete and your house may crumble like a cookie.

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver... their work will be shown for what it is...”_(1 Corinthians 3:11-13). These are the **OPTIONAL** items.

“Be rooted and built up in [Christ Jesus], be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving just as you were taught”_(Colossians 2:7 CEB). Get back to the **BASICS**.

Dear God, teach us faith that is strong and straight and based on the **BASIC** truth that Jesus Christ came to die for our sins. He is our Lord and Savior. Praise His Holy Name. Amen.

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Edward Mote

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.



Cornerstone

Lari Goss

Jesus is the Cornerstone,
He came for sinners to atone;
Tho’ rejected by His own,
He became the Cornerstone.
O Jesus is the Cornerstone.