

Taste and See His Goodness

Psalm 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in
Him!

God's goodness

"No one is good except God alone." (Mark 10 and Luke 18)

Goodness is defined by God, not by man. God is our Creator. He is the source of everything and He sets the criteria that defines all character.

People often say that they believe that they are good enough to get into heaven on their own merit. God has said "all our righteous deeds are like filthy rags." (Is 64:6) What God says is **exactly the opposite** (Is 55:8)

Goodness is not just a relative concept. Goodness, as defined in His Word, the Bible, are the things that delight Him that are good; doing what is right, forgiving others, showing unchanging love, and His people. (Jer 9:24; Michah 7:18; 1 Chr 29:17; 1 Ki 10:9; Ps 18:19, 22:8).

The pure milk of God's truth as found in His word is essential to growing in our faith with respect to salvation. It is predicated on having tasted the kindness of God which is one facet of God's goodness. 1 Peter 2:3

Tasting

Scripture indicates that tasting is testing. - Job 12:11, 34:3 For the ear tests words As the palate **tastes** food.

Tasting God's goodness means being able to distinguish what God is doing and how He is interacting with you. In Taste Testing, we train people to use their senses to discern flavor profiles and flavor intensity. One of the main purposes that the book of Proverbs was written was that we would be able to "discern the sayings of understanding." If you want to be able to distinguish the good things of God, then you must seek out and search His commandments and words of wisdom.

Proverbs 2:1-4 Yearning, treasuring and seeking lead to:

Pr 2:5 Discerning how awesome God is (the fear of God) and discovering the intimate knowledge about who He is.

Pr2:9 Discerning righteousness, justice, equity and every good course of action.

Taste is a combination of smelling aromas, distinguishing flavors and feeling texture. And they all work together to give us a single impression of what something tastes like.

Tasting incorporates descriptive and comparative abilities. In the same way that you can describe how your favorite dessert tastes, you need to be able to describe the specific ways that God is good to you.

We can develop our spiritual taste receptors to recognize God and His works.

Prayer log; Journaling. Giving testimony to one another of what God has done for you (e.g. today after the worship service)

Remembering what God has done for us is like the concept of chewing your food twenty times. The biblical concept is called meditating. (Joshua 1:8-9 Ps 1:2, 27:4, 77:12, 119:1,15,48)

You'll be able to tell whether you are becoming more perceptive of how God is working in your life by how often you talk with others about what God is doing in your life and the diversity of ways you see Him working.

In the same way that the sense of taste can be enhanced by using salt or sugar in a recipe, we can enhance our senses for God.

It is essential that we remain in fellowship with other believers in Christ, so that we can have others to help us keep a proper perspective of God when we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. And it is just as essential, that we are alert to the condition of others so that we can help to encourage them. (Job 6:6)

Another way that we can enhance our **鍍**taste for God **◆** is by obeying His commands (Jn 14:21)

Hebrews 5:14 says, "But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to **discern** good and evil.

Enjoying His Goodness

Ps 119:103 How sweet are Your words to my **taste**! *Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!* **◆**

Jeremiah 15:16 "Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the **delight** of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts."

Psalms 73:28 "But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works."

1 John 4:10 "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation [sacrificial substitute] for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Therefore,

putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word,

so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

if you have **tasted the kindness of the Lord.**

1 Peter 2:1-3