

Taste and see that the Lord is good

“Guidance, like all God's acts of blessing under the covenant of grace, is a sovereign act. Not merely does God will to guide us in the sense of showing us his way, that we may tread it; he wills also to guide us in the more fundamental sense of ensuring that, whatever happens, whatever mistakes we may make, we shall come safely home. Slippings and strayings there will be, no doubt, but the everlasting arms are beneath us; we shall be caught, rescued, restored. This is God's promise; this is how good he is.”

J.I. Packer, Knowing God

If God has done what you think he should do, trust him. If God doesn't do what you think he should do, trust him. If you pray and believe God for a miracle and he does it, trust him. If your worst nightmare comes true, believe he is sovereign. Believe he is good.”

Craig Groeschel

Psalm 34: 8 – 14

1) Taste of the goodness of the Lord

- If we want to experience all the goodness of food we have to eat it. It's no use knowing about the goodness of food, looking at healthy food, smelling it, being close to it.
 - You have to eat it to partake of its goodness and be nourished by it.
- In the same way we can be told about the goodness of God, know about it, read about it in the Bible, be close to it, but never experience it because we don't partake of his life. We remain distant to him.
- David has experienced the goodness of God for himself and calls on us to taste and see that the Lord is good.
 - When we have something that tastes really good we want others to taste it as well.
- When we taste something that is good and that we like we don't want to stop at that. We want more of it.
 - This was David's intention. He really wanted us to have the fullness of the goodness of God, not to stop at a taste of Him.
- Many people who turned away from the Lord have said that they tried the Lord and found that He wasn't for them.
 - God isn't there to be tried out in the same way we try on a new pair of shoes or clothes to see whether we like them or not.
 - People who do that haven't tasted of the goodness of God, haven't died to their own lives and haven't allowed Jesus to become their all in all to know who He really is.
 - Neither have they realised that God doesn't need us at all. We need Him.
- Tasting of the Lord should lead us to take refuge in him where we'll find all the blessings of goodness.
 - It is there that we'll fear Him, seek him and have no lack of anything.
- For God is good - or rather, of all goodness He is the Fountainhead.” **Athanasius of Alexandria**
 - His goodness flows into us and transforms us when we partake of him.
 - Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit that indwells us.
- Goodness isn't just doing good deeds as we can do good deeds with bad attitudes.
- Goodness is complete moral uprightness and integrity.
 - Integrity isn't doing the right thing when no one is looking. That's the fruit of integrity.
 - Some people do the right thing when no one's listening for the fear of being caught not because they want to do what's right. That's not integrity.

2) Live in the fear of the Lord

- The Lord wants us to fear Him.
- This fear isn't to be frightened of the Lord but to morally revere Him. Hold Him in reverence. Esteem him. Do what honours Him.
- The fear of the Lord retains a heart of integrity.
 - Proverbs 8: 13 To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech.
- God desires that we live in fear of him because we love him.
 - We hate what he hates and we love what he loves.
 - We do what pleases him even when no one else is looking because we love him.
 - We don't not do it for the fear of being caught if we do it, but because we live by the fear of the Lord.
 - Hating evil and loving goodness is within us.

3) Do what is good

- If goodness has become our character then we won't have to think about doing what is good and resisting evil. It will become natural for us.
- The Lord teaches us what is good and evil.
 - Hebrews 5: 14 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.
 - In other words although goodness is a fruit of the Spirit we still have to be trained to distinguish good from evil and live accordingly.
- The Lord is good and as we are transformed into His likeness we will start doing what is good naturally. We will live His life.
- Sometimes it takes brokenness to break our sinfulness and allow His life to be revealed through us.
 - Galatians 2: 20 – 21 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!
- Goodness is therefore not primarily about doing good but being good.
 - Good works flow from a good being as a good tree bears good fruit.
 - A good being comes from eating of Christ and we start by tasting and seeing that the Lord is good.