

O Taste and see that the Lord is good

Last night while I was pondering about the men's camp and especially about Sunday morning's ministry of the Scripture, "*Taste* (experience for yourself, feel, perceive, undergo) *and see that the Lord is good,*" (*Psalm 34:8*), the Lord reminded me of a word that He had given me about 30 years ago; since then, this word has become a remarkable kingdom mindset for me.

Show me Your glory

I had often been preaching about the glory of the Lord during that time, as He revealed it to me. I had reached a place where I longed for it and had started praying, "*Lord, show me Your glory.*"

I prayed this prayer for a long time and had an expectation that the Lord would at some time open the heavens so that I could see His glory. One day the Lord spoke to me through His Word.

Doubting Thomas

I was reading the passage in John 20:24-31 where Thomas was doubtful about Jesus' resurrection, and where he had said to the other disciples:

John 20:25 "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Jesus appeared to the disciples again a few days later and invited a surprised Thomas to put his finger in the nail scars. Thomas then answered Him,

20:28 "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus said something remarkable to him:

20:29 "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? More blessed are they who have not seen, and yet believed."

When I read that, the Holy Spirit highlighted this Scripture to me and said that He preferred that I believed even though I had not physically seen His glory with my own eyes. It is FAITH that pleases God (*Hebrews 11:6*). Right there I decided that I would be obedient and live my life as though I constantly saw Him in His full splendour. In other words, to live by faith without the need to constantly seek a physical confirmation in unbelief. I would rather *"see"* His glory through the eyes of faith, believe it according to the Word, and live a life of faith accordingly.

Hannah

When we live from that perspective, with Psalm 34:8 as our guideline, we will *"taste"* the Lord's goodness by faith even if we don't always see it with our natural eyes. 1Samuel 1:12-18 describes it so beautifully. Hannah, with a distressed heart, was calling out to God for a son. Eli thought that she was drunk and admonished her for her drunkenness. Hannah answered that she was not

drunk, but rather that she had been pouring out her soul before the Lord. Eli answered her with a prophetic word:

1Sam 1:17 "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him."

Notice Hannah's change of behaviour.

1:18 "... So the woman went away and ate, and her face was no longer sad."

This is the face of faith. She didn't have her son yet – indeed she had not even been with her husband yet - but her face attested to the truth that she had already received the child in the spirit; in other words, she lived as though she was already pregnant.

This is the type of faith that the Father seeks - not a "*faith*" that rejoices only once the child is born. Look at what Isaiah says:

Isa 54:1 "Shout for joy, o Barren one, you who have borne no child; break forth into joyful shouting ..."

When should the barren rejoice? It is when they don't have children yet. It is in the rejoicing and shouting for joy by faith that the children *are given* to her. She *receives the child in the spirit* and already starts to rejoice before she has even approached her husband.

"Tasting and seeing" is therefore something that is done by faith. *Your face changes*. You are full of joy because God is good, even before you have seen or experienced the outcome of that goodness in your own life. It is this kind of faith that pleases God and makes Him proud of

you, as He was of Abraham and all those men and women of faith that we read about in Hebrews 11. He calls them His children, His friends, and is *"not ashamed to be called their God" (Hebrews 11:16)*.

May I encourage you to have a similar faith, a faith that sees God's goodness through the eyes of faith. May your heart rejoice with gladness in Him.

Henry Jackson