

## Introduction

Over the last few weeks we've been looking at being still before God, coming into that place of quietness and rest in His presence.

I believe a lot of our problems come from a lack of understanding between the presence of God built into our lives and an atmosphere built in a church meeting.

We need to learn to be still in His presence and minister out of His presence instead of allowing an atmosphere to dictate to us.

Each time Jesus came out of the presence of the Father and ministered.

He wasn't relying on a song service, a hyped up song leader or loud clapping, He was relying on His relationship and understanding of His oneness with the Father, as He said, me and the Father are one.

Jesus was a man of few words:-

- 1) He didn't pray long drawn out prayers
- 2) He was a man of authority
- 3) Compassion and love
- 4) He always went back to spend time with His Father.

No servant is greater than His master, and as we are servants of God, living in sonship, and as relationship was important to Jesus, it should be the same for us.

We cannot live or minister out of an atmosphere created by a band or song leader. It is our responsibility to have a relationship with the Father and minister out of His presence.

It is out of our private time with the Father that the Holy Spirit reveals truth and life into our spirits.

That is why this week we want to have a look at Psalm 34:8 and how it says "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

- 1) We have to enjoy being in His presence
- 2) Be excited to go into His presence
- 3) Have a confidence to go into His presence, and
- 4) Have an expectation to go into His presence.

It is like sitting down for a good meal. There is nothing worse than having a meal or food that is bland and has no flavour. That is why it is the ministers' responsibility to preach messages and deliver the Word of God with flavour, substance and grace, giving people a desire to go and taste and see the Lord is good, for themselves.

## Scripture

- **Psalm 34:8** (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

- **Psalm 34:8** (AMP)

<sup>8</sup>O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good! Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him.<sup>(A)</sup>

**TASTE (ENGLISH):** *the sense by which the flavour or savour of things is perceived when they are brought into contact with the tongue.*

**TASTE (GREEK):** *To perceive*

Scripture

- **Psalm 34:8** (MSG)

<sup>8</sup> Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see— how good GOD is. Blessed are you who run to him.

Let's have a look at this passage from the message bible.

It says "open your mouth." In spiritual terms we need to open our spirits to receive, open your spirit wide and sense His presence, sense His love, hear His voice, do not be in a hurry. If you go to have a good meal, you don't just scoff it down, you want to enjoy it, taste it.

God has prepared a table for us with good things that we need to taste.

We need to open our eyes because all around us we will see Gods goodness. Because the bible says "all heaven declares the glory of the Lord." It is like a mother with a new born baby, holding on, caressing, loving – that should be our attitude to the things of God.

A mother with a new born baby is excited, wants to show the baby off, that should be our attitude when we have been in His presence. We want to demonstrate, we want to share of what we have tasted and seen. It is like Simeon, who said, "behold my eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord."

Scripture

- **Luke 2:30** (NIV)

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

Notice it says here "my eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord", why are we looking for big things when we can gain so much out of tasting one verse, being still for a short time and seeing that God is good, that is why Peter says we need to grow in our salvation not just living on milk but going on to meat. So, if we look at 1 Peter 2:2-3:

Scripture

- **1 Peter 2:2-3** (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

We live as young Christians on milk, but there must be a time when we search out the Word and come into the deeper things of God, not relying on a preacher or a book, but taking responsibility for our own walk and our own relationship with the Father.

Out of the relationship we build with the Father coming into sonship we will receive greater Kingdom revelation.

If only we could come into an understanding that we are blessed with every good thing as it says in Ephesians 1:3

#### Scripture

- **Ephesians 1:3 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

- 1) We are blessed in heavenly realms
- 2) With every spiritual blessing
- 3) And all that is in Christ

These are the things that we need to taste and have revealed in our hearts, so that we will become ministers as it says in Romans 14:17, not just eating and drinking, being caught up in the traditions and symbols of religion, but ministering out of revealed truth which is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

#### Scripture

- **Romans 14:17 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

Be encouraged to sit at His table this week and taste and see that the Lord is good.

Next week we will be opening up Romans 14:17.