

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF TRUTH AND FREEDOM
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TASTERS AND SEERS

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1

“O Taste and See”

Psalms 34:8-9 (NIV)
Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

The Psalmist made this statement, with great confidence, as an encouragement to us. How would we know what he said is true? The only way to find out is to do as he said. That is exactly what he was saying – “do it!”. This is an invitation to personally experience, test, and verify the goodness of the Lord, rather than just hearing about it from someone or learning about it intellectually. This means consciously trying a relationship with God to find that He is who He says He is – trustworthy, loving, forgiving, providing, and protecting. There are countless examples of how He relates to those who trust in Him throughout Scripture, but how can this be a tangible experience for us? Simple – “taste and see”. We were recently invited to a formal Japanese ceremony where the chef had prepared exquisite, authentic dishes, among which was miso soup, one of the finest we have ever tasted. Would we have been satisfied by merely reading the carefully written menu or by hearing others talk about the soup and how delicious the other dishes were? Surely not! We had to taste it for ourselves, and that’s when we knew our palates had encountered something truly authentic and delicious. We did not need anyone to tell us about it. We tasted and saw for ourselves!

2

Gracious God We Can Rely On

Psalms 34:10-19 (NIV)
10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. 11 Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. 12 Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, 13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. 14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; 16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth. 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;

To “taste and see” means to “try and experience”. We do not have to merely take the Psalmist’s word for this, even though it helps us greatly to anticipate what could be possible. How are we supposed to “taste”? We must go to God in prayer with trust and expectation. In all our ways, we must acknowledge Him and ask for direction and help. What are we supposed to “see”? The Psalmist outlined several things we can “see” – lacking no good thing, answered prayers, deliverance from troubles, closeness to us when we are brokenhearted, and being saved when crushed in spirit. The Psalmist tasted and saw the goodness of God and is encouraging us to do the same. Let us be “tasters and seers”, always. Amen!

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