

Mt Lebanon Church

Teaching Ministry

9.22.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal unto you that which he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Spiritual Senses – The Sense of Taste

1 Peter 2: 1 – 3

Taste is a way in which we take nourishment into our bodies, and it truly becomes a part of us. It is the sense of taste that is given unto us for the enjoyment of life, for it brings us closer to our cravings than anything else. Taste is truly perceiving something by experiencing it, it requires us to choose to become involved, for our cravings will not truly be satisfied until we decide to fully present our yearnings to ourselves through taste. Now taste symbolizes the most intimate experiences of our emotions, for we describe our sense of taste as: amazing, delightful, enticing, delicious, and distinctive, taste becomes a reality unto us, through us, and by us. So, how do we relate this to our spiritual life in Christ? How often do we use words like amazing, delightful, enticing, delicious, and distinctive to describe our experiences with God? Taste means trust, and before you taste something, you assess whether it is good or not, then you trust that when you taste it, that it will not be disappointing. A relationship with God is built upon trust, and the word of God reminds us that in order to have our spiritual sense of taste in the Lord, then we must first trust in him. The more that we trust in him, the more that we can taste that which is good. Taste is very important to us, for not only does it allow us to accept that which is good, but it helps us to avoid that which is bad. If it does not taste right, then we need to spit it out. The great thing about learning the importance of our spiritual sense of taste is that when it comes to God, it is always good. Yes, there will be times when we are uncertain about the taste, because we are not use to good taste, but we know that God will always be good, and we can trust him completely.

1 Peter 2: 1 – 3,....laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking's, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby, if so ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious....

So, how have we tasted the goodness of the Lord? Have we received comfort and confidence through our salvation, knowing that God has given unto us a living hope through Christ Jesus. Have we experienced the joy of the Lord as we trust and believe in him through every situation and circumstance in our life, and that is, do we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Have we found great purpose in the ability to serve God by loving him with our whole heart and by loving one another with the same love and compassion that Christ showed unto us through his suffering and sacrifice on the cross. Now, do not allow this to confuse you, for some may preach that tasting the circumstances of the moment will allow us to see the goodness of God, but we taste the goodness of God through our sufferings, and also by trusting in his promise that one day our sufferings will end as we continue to live for him.

Psalms 34: 8,....O taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in him....

For those who have trusted in Christ as their savior, we have truly tasted of the goodness of God in our lives. Now, maybe we cannot or will not always acknowledge it, because we have allowed the emotional distress of the world to overshadow it, but we have seen, in abundance, the forgiveness, and loving kindness of God through our submission unto him. If we will allow him to, the Lord will deliver us from all of our worldly fears. Now, this does not mean that we will be exempt from trials, tribulations, persecutions, and sufferings, but he does promise to rescue those from evil who are righteous.

Psalms 34: 17 – 19,....the righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of their troubles....the Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit....many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all....

The believer realizes that the only refuge for sin is God, but if we do not submit to God than we will not find refuge in him. We must understand that when we do sin, the Holy Spirit brings us into the reality and knowledge of that sinfulness by our own emotion of guilt, and this usually comes through suffering and sadness. But let us understand that suffering alone does not save anyone, and just because we are sad through our emotional sense of guilt this does not restore us unto righteousness. Suffering and sadness bring us into the fear of the Lord, which shows unto us the way of repentance, and it is this which restores us into the righteousness of Christ. This happens as the Holy Spirit reveals all things unto us through the truth of God's word.

Psalm 119: 103,....how sweet are thy words unto my taste, yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth....

It is only through the word of God that we will discover the invaluable characteristics of God himself. By his word we will discover that God is more precious than anything materialistic, and that we might realize that his wisdom, knowledge, and understanding is immeasurable, and that through the truth of his word we might find satisfaction that cannot be compassed by another. It is then that we will begin to acknowledge that all of God's promises, all of his commandments, all of his judgements, and all of his exultations are not only sweet to the taste but have become food for the soul. These findings instill joy within the heart of the believer, and spiritual discernment to those who have the mind of Christ.

Jeremiah 15: 16,....thy words were found, and I did eat them, and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart, for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts....

As believers, we are commanded to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

James 1: 22,....be ye doers of the word and not hearers only....

We are to trust in its promises, and not to despise the living word of truth, for the word of God which we have hidden in our hearts should be a joy and a delight, something that we will readily receive, for it is a life sustaining meal, and it is our duty not only to share the goodness of the gospel of God's saving grace, but also to warn others of the corrective, disciplinary work of God in the lives of all who are disobedient to the truth of his word.

John 6: 51,....I am the living bread which came down from heaven, if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world....

Mankind needs spiritual food, which is to say that we need the word of God, and not only do we need the word of God, but we need to do the will of God. Food is vital for sustaining life, and without proper nourishment we become weak and cannot function properly. Believers need spiritual food so as not to become weak and weary, for God wants us to strive in our spiritual relationship with him. Man is created both physical and spiritual, which is why spiritual food is just as important and more so than physical nourishment. When Christ was tempted of Satan, he proclaimed that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4: 4,....it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God....

Through our spiritual sense of taste, we experience the characteristics of God. When we experience God through his word, it is then that we are able to see his mercy, his grace, and his goodness, and by experiencing him, we draw closer unto him. Tasting means to become aware of, and to recognize by experience, so that we might be able to discern between that which is good and that which is evil, so that we might accept the good, and avoid the bad.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>