

Spiritual Senses: Taste (Outline)

Taste and see the goodness of God

Dr. V. A. Thomas, Senior Pastor

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.” Ps. 34:8

Introduction

We have come to the first day of the new year, 2017 and that happens to be a Sunday! What a wonderful way to begin a new year – to be in the presence of God, in His house, rather than anywhere else, worshipping and praising him and listening to his Word as well as to celebrate our new life in Christ through Holy Communion!

Last Sunday we heard a powerful sermon on the sense of ‘touch’ from Minister Shawn. The week before that, we heard from Minister Maurice, the sense of hearing.’ Prior to that I’ve shared with you about the sense of sight. This morning I want to share with you the sense of taste! The sense of taste has at least three unique characteristics:

- 1) First of all, it is a very personal experience. It could not be explained; it has to be experienced.
- 2) The secondly, regardless of how great the food that you are eating, it functions under the economic ‘law of diminishing marginal utility.’ The taste diminishes as you continue to consume it.
- 3) Thirdly, there are certain substances that touch the palate and taste buds of our mouth that compromise the sense of taste, such as tobacco products, certain drugs, combinations of certain foods and drinks.

These are the principles of the natural sense of taste. However, when we submit our lives to God, it is possible for us to receive a heightened sense of taste – from natural to spiritual! King David in the Old Testament was such an individual. When he sang, “taste and see that the Lord is good”, clearly, he was not talking about the natural sense of taste; he was testifying his spiritual experience with God in a very personal and intimate level.

When he faced the greatest challenge in his life as a young man – facing Goliath the giant, what made him defeat the giant was not the warrior outfit King Saul put on him or the king’s sword; and not even David’s own sling or the smooth stone he kept in his bag; but it was the taste of God’s goodness he had kept in his heart! He proudly shares his strategy with King Saul in 1 Sam. 17:37, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

When we face the giants in our lives, how do we handle it? Of course, our giants differ! For David, it was Goliath; for me it is something or someone else! For each of you, your giant is different! If David didn’t face his giant, he would have never possessed his destiny – the king of Israel! How did he defeat the giant? He recollected what God had done for him in the past in almost similar situations and strengthened his trust and dependence on God!

Even after experiencing the goodness of God so personally, it is possible to get all confused with our own abilities and smartness with pure goodness of God that we’ve been experiencing. It is just as the third characteristic of natural sense of taste, where we allow certain substances to touch our palate or taste buds, the real sense of taste become distorted! None of us

are immune to that! I personally had experienced that in 2010. I had a very successful real estate investment business from 1998 to 2010. (Personal Testimony) Under a unique circumstance, I lost almost all my investments to the bank, leaving huge personal debts and numerous subsequent problems! I tried everything to restore what I lost, but didn't succeed. A serious cloud of depression and hopelessness stood over me for several days! Then I woke up in the middle of one night, and came down to my study and asked God where did I go wrong, rather than why haven't you done anything to deliver me – why did you make me lose all these great properties I worked so hard to possess! And he began to reveal where I've failed! When God started blessing financially I gave him all the glory and honor; then, gradually, I began to give myself the credit, as God continued to blessed me financially! Somewhere along the line, I began to mix my smartness with God's goodness that I was experiencing and gave myself the credit; subsequently, the sense of taste toward God's goodness was compromised in my heart!

That was reflected in my prayer life and my tithing a well. Once I was revealed the reasons for my failure, I sat down before God and made certain resolutions: 1) From now on I'll separate 10% of anything God would give me since it is the challenge God himself given to his people in Mal. 3:8-10 (read). 2) I will take a step without asking God's counsel – more prayer and personal communion with God; 3) I will not depend on my abilities anymore, but I'll be totally dependent on God. 4) If I'm blessed, it is not for my benefit; but for the benefit of the Kingdom!

Conclusion

When David was making the statement, “taste and see that the Lord is good” it was a testimony and at the same a challenge, an invitation for others to do the same! In fact, that is the expectation of God in all of our lives! Rather than preaching and talking about God and his goodness from the book, he wants us to taste his goodness and then share that with others so that it will be a personal experience for them to challenge others as well! I want to leave you this challenge for your new year – 1) “taste and see that the Lord is good” for yourself; and then, challenge others to taste his goodness as well. 2) Do not get confused with the work of God and his goodness in your life with your smartness and your hard work and efforts.
