



# The Good News

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## ***Tasting to see if the Lord is Good***

By JR Rosado (used with permission)

The story is told, that there once was a man who lived a long time before Wal-mart or modern technological advancements and this man had never seen or tasted a banana. At some point someone who knew him sent him some bananas and told him how much they liked eating them. He took one and washed it and then bit into it skin and all. After about three chews he spit it all out in disgust. To his dying day he thought that all bananas were bitter and gross tasting. He never properly tasted to see. The Bible tells us in Psalms 34:8: “O taste and see that the Lord is good! How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him...”

Taking “refuge” in the Lord means, “finding shelter from danger & troubles, by reaching out to the creator of the universe and allowing Him to operate His methods instead of relying on the nature of ‘self’ to direct one’s life.”

Part of taking refuge involves actually reaching out to Him. A person must exert a level of will-power and spiritually-directed-free-will in order to obtain refuge from God. God does not pre-select some people who will be saved and doom others to hellfire, before they are born. He is willing to give all individuals the chance to repent. Thus every person needs to reach out to Him.

Some people “taste to see” God, the wrong way. For example, they form an opinion on God based on a whim (that is) with lack of knowledge. Just like the man who bit into a banana (skin and all) and did not peel the skin off the banana, he was not able to taste the goodness of the banana because his knowledge in the realm of what to do with a good piece of fruit was lacking.

People in the world today say things like, “your God is too mean”. Or, “all you do is read that book, I don’t like reading, therefore God must not appeal to me through the Bible”. Whatever excuse a person might raise for not esteeming God highly can be paralleled to one not properly “tasting” God.

Tasting God is not like “sampling God to see if we like his flavor”. Perhaps you’ve been to an ice cream merchant and been offered a little spoonful of ice cream to see if you like a flavor before filling a full cup or cone with ice cream. If so, that is nothing!, like a proper understanding of tasting God. Why? Because while people may physically not like a certain flavor, God offers a salvation plan that can in fact appeal to every soul. It is only through God that a soul can be saved.

God says through Peter in, 1 Peter 2:2-3: “like newborn babes long for the pure milk of the word, that you may grow in your salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious”.

If a person is “indeed” tasting the Lord properly, they will understand the metaphor that the Lord is always “tasty” or in a more concrete sense: the Lord is always doing the best job as the spiritual authority of the entire spiritual realm (Ephesians 6).

The analogy is given in 1st Peter of a little baby. A little infant is always desiring the milk of the mother every time he or she is hungry. Thus this is proportionate to the way we ought to desire to taste the Lord. Infants that are in the first stage of developmental growth (1-4 months of age, estimated) rely exclusively on milk. From 4-6 months they begin a gradual process of in-taking semi-solids like grains, and then around the 9th month phase they are able (estimated) to begin to digest some solid foods. This natural process is a great parallel to the way a Christian should develop spiritually. As soon as one is a Christian they should begin to taste to see that the Lord is good by “[ longing ] for the pure milk of the word” (1 Peter 2:2). As they mature, gradual steps should be taken to teach deeper principles from the scriptures. This way a person always tastes that the Lord is good, for as their taste develops for the acquisition of a more spiritual developmental process, so does their palate (the spiritual mind) expand to appreciate the deeper truth’s of God’s word. We all need to strive to taste that God is good.