

““O *taste and see* that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” *Psalms 34:8 KJV*

You can believe in ice cream and never know its delight. You can extol its virtues to others, without tasting by learning what others write or say. You might even teach others to enjoy its goodness and even fool them into thinking you had eaten it. But your facade of passion for ice cream would fade, because it is self-generated. Without experience, passion fades. Your rhetoric may sound, seem, and be good, but until you eat ice cream, your smile is false and your knowledge borrowed. Until you actually walk and talk with God, you only know ABOUT God: YOU DON'T KNOW God! Many true believers, after their initial repentance, never truly taste "joy unspeakable" from an intimate relationship with the "Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!" The true seeker seeks God, not just once a day, but every waking moment and slumbers sweetly with visions of goodness gracing their dreams. They meditate day and night on God's Word and prayer is never far from their heart. "If we walk in the Light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." They have learned the comfort of study, meditation, and prayer. They know the full assurance of righteousness afforded the immediate confession of sin. They have the "Peace" of eternity provided those who Love the Word of God. "Great peace have they which love Thy Law and NOTHING shall offend them!" Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." What greater peace can there be than walking hand in hand with the God who commands the storm, "Peace! Be still!" You can't just know ABOUT ice cream to truly delight in its cool and creamy sweetness. The reward of the seeker is finding that which is sought. If you don't seek God you'll never find Him. "He is a rewarder of them which DILIGENTLY seek Him. Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Gold hunters move tons of earth for an ounce of gold. You can't just know ABOUT God to truly "know the power of His resurrection." Spectators never know the true joy of victory for they have never endured the sacrifice needed to obtain it. Until you "take up your cross," die to self, and choose to obey Christ, only then can you partake of "the fellowship of His suffering," and only then will you have "tasted" the goodness of God! You cannot know "the God of all comfort" until you've suffered by His side. Hardship endured with a friend bonds the soul! "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."



O taste and see that God is good,
Sweeter than honey ever could,
The cross you bear upon this sod,
Unveils the perfect Face of God! ~CGP

Without suffering, comfort is meaningless. Without bruises, healing is comfortless. With many friends, friendship is a bother. Without valleys, mountains are plains. You cannot rise if you've never been down. The storm brings the nourishing rain. With famine, bread is a feast! Thirst brings one to the fountain! Are you hungry and thirsty?

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star. And the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let him that heareth say, 'Come.' And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the Water of Life freely." Revelation 22:16-17 KJV