

"Forever Reign", by Hillsong

I want to invite you to do something ... a taste test of sorts. Psalm 34:8-14 ...

Psalm 34:8

⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

"Taste" the Lord? Yes, try Him out. Allow Him to prove Himself to you. "But, what does the Lord taste like?" He's good. He's very, very good. Today's song is about God's Goodness. Hillsong's "Forever Reign" is a recipe list of so many of the good qualities God can bring into your life. The whole point of the song is that "God is so good, he's worth knowing now, and forever."

The title doesn't mention God's goodness ... but BECAUSE God is good, He will reign forever! One of the criticisms I've heard from non-believers is that they don't want to go to heaven because it'll be boring there ... sitting around playing harps, peeking over the edge of clouds. That's a popular and wildly wrong understanding of what Heaven is like and what we'll do there. I'm am eager to be with Jesus in heaven because He is GOOD, and I've had enough bad here on earth.

But, this song doesn't stop at Goodness, it's a beautiful litany of what God tastes like ... all the flavors of His character.

A. God's goodness releases me!

Verse 1 is about freeing me from my darkness and sin to experience His wonderful love and hope.

You are good, You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love, You are love
On display for all to see
You are light, You are light
When the darkness closes in
You are hope, You are hope
You have covered all my sin

- Good
- Love
- Light
- Hope

B. God's goodness gives me direction in life!

Verse 2 is about how Jesus guides me through life's journey ... the fears that I face ... my own search for purpose trying to figure out what life is about ... and finally being able to approach death with joy.

You are peace, You are peace
When my fear is crippling
You are true, You are true
Even in my wandering
You are joy, You are joy
You're the reason that I sing
You are life, You are life
In You death has lost its sting

- Peace
- True
- Joy
- Life

C. God's goodness is for now!

Verse 3 reminds us that faith is for here and now, not just for later and eternity.

You are more, You are more
Than my words will ever say
You are Lord, You are Lord
All creation will proclaim
You are here, You are here
In Your presence I'm made whole
You are God, You are God
Of all else I'm letting go

- More
- Lord
- Here
- God

D. God's goodness is a place of refuge!

The chorus! The chorus is so beautiful ... it invites us to experience the embrace of God's loving arms!

Oh! I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love
Will always be enough
Nothing compares
To Your embrace
Light of the world
Forever reign

Luke 15:20, So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

E. Just Jesus!

There is a part of this song that captures the passion of what it means to be a Christian ...

My heart will sing
No other name
Jesus, Jesus

John 6:66-69 (NLT)

⁶⁶ At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.

⁶⁷ Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?"

⁶⁸ Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.

⁶⁹ We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we invite you to forever reign in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen."