

Hummingbirds

2020-07-31 Devotional

by Pastor Sharon Tidd

Yesterday I stood in awe as I watched a hummingbird take the nectar from one of our gladiola. For three minutes it fed, taking the goodness from each of the blossoms on that one flower. It was a beautiful thing to observe. A first for me! And I admit it; I found myself crying in wonder. The inter-connectedness of God's creation always gets me that way. A beautiful flower becomes nourishment for a tiny bird, and his feeding frenzy becomes a joy-inspiring sight for my eyes to behold. Those few moments will forever, I think, be etched in my mind.

As I stood watching I was reminded of the verse in Psalm 34:8: *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."*

That little hummingbird was tasting and seeing. He was working hard to get the wondrous nectar that God, the Creator, had placed within each blossom for his benefit and blessing. He was focused on receiving it. His wings were going so fast they were nearly invisible to my eyes! He made sure he drank from each blossom, in turn, not missing out on any of the goodness. He got what he came for and went away very satisfied!

I'm not sure I put in the same kind of effort when it comes to tasting and seeing the goodness of God. I can get lazy sometimes. I don't always do the work necessary to receive my fill from Him. A banquet is always laid out for me; a full spread of gifts to receive ... grace, mercy, peace, joy, forgiveness, justice, kindness, love. And yet, often, I settle for just a sampling. I rush off without tasting it all. Can anyone relate? In the busy-ness of life, I know I often just grab the minimum that I need to get by. I miss out on the full buffet of God's goodness.

As I watched that hummingbird take it ALL in, I found myself praying, "God, I'm sorry that I'm not tasting it all. I'm sorry that I so often fail to put in the effort to really experience all Your goodness. I'm sorry that I look to other things to nourish

and sustain and fortify me. I need to find my strength and my refuge in You. Give me the desire to taste and see Your goodness. Make me like that hummingbird God, focused and intent on receiving the blessings You have for me.”

I was reminded of a hymn that we sang in Sunday School many years ago,

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The LORD God made them all.
Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours.
He made their tiny wings.
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The LORD God made them all.*

That tiny hummingbird proved both ‘wise and wonderful’ yesterday. He reminded me of a truth I have known for many years; a truth I haven’t always applied well. Creator God provides good things. We just need to taste and see! What do you need from Him today? Whatever it is, trust me when I say, the smorgasbord is laid out and He invites you and me to come and be filled!