Tasting Truth

Reflection by Terry Swenson, Loma Linda, CA

I was four years old. I was in Sabbath School class and it was time for our lesson study. My teacher had placed the colorful felt pictures of the events of the days of Creation on the felt board (if you don’t know what I’m talking about ask an older church member). As my little eyes scanned the display, I noticed a discrepancy. Things didn’t look right. They seemed out of order. I raised my hand. “Yes, Terry?” my teacher asked. “Teacher, God made a mistake.” As you can imagine, especially if you remember church of my youth, this statement was met with a gruff response—“A MISTAKE?! God NEVER makes a mistake!! Whatever are you talking about?!” Fearfully, I pointed out that God made the light before He made the sun and moon. If it wasn’t a mistake, why did He do that? The only response I received followed the lines of God can do what He wants and I was to NEVER ask questions of God. Really?

That’s not how my Dad raised me. He told me that truth is truth and it can withstand any scrutiny. As a matter of fact, if it is truth, it calls for us to ask questions, explore, put it under scrutiny. When someone or some group claims that you can NEVER ask questions—that may be when you really need to. Truth can stand up for itself. My father’s experience and wisdom guided me well.

As a matter of fact, our Heavenly Father holds the same opinion when it comes to truth. In Isaiah 1:18 the following words are recorded:
“Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

In Psalm 34:8, David echoes this sentiment:

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”

Tasting, seeing, reasoning comes with experiencing, questioning, exploring and discovering that God is big enough, true enough and loving enough for everything and anything that we bring to Him. Try it and see.

Thanks, Dad, for guiding a little boy’s mind!

Recalibrate

1. What questions about Jesus have you been told not to ask and why?
2. What questions regarding truth in your life do you think Jesus is wanting you to ask?

Feel free to send any thoughts or comments to Terry Swenson.