

Psalms 34

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Psalms 34

YouTube Prayer Link

There is no way forward, out of the predicament, and another village

Psalm 34:

David fled from Saul to Achish king of Gath. And Achish said unto him, Is this not David king of Israel? Afraid of Achish king of Gath, David changed his usual behavior in front of the people, pretending to be insane under them, and scribbling on the doors of the gates of the city, so that spit flowed on his beard. And king Achih said that this man was mad, and told him to go. "And David departed thence, and fled to the cave of Adullam.

David pretended to be mad and humiliated in order to get out of danger. In such a situation, most people will feel sorry for themselves, complain about God, and are more likely to doubt God from now on. Yet, David still praised the Lord and wanted others to be like him, all the time and from the bottom of his heart, joyfully praised.

David's personal experience, and it was his experience many times, even the experience of his whole life. This is not a theory, but an empirical one. The difference between theory and experience is that theory is possible, but experience is real and irrefutable fact. David proved that God saves those who seek and trust in Him, so that they can praise in the midst of suffering. The fear of God lacks nothing, and the fear of God lacks no good. The absence of lack is a great blessing, and the absence of anything that is "good" is a greater blessing. People in the world feel that they are lacking, either this or that. Someone even already has a lot and still feels lacking. Why? Because they did not fear God properly. Psalm 23, David tells us

that when he makes God his shepherd, he will not be in need! With God as his shepherd, he needed nothing more. Now he has confirmed that a man lacks nothing if he fears God.

David's mood was very light and joyful, and he truly thanked for everything. The following verses are his brief testimony of his experience of nine deaths: "I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears..... And the LORD heard, and delivered me out of all my trouble..... Blessed are those who come to Him..... For fear of Him lacks nothing. In the eyes of others or his own men, David escaped the Philiss by pretending to be mad and foolish, but he knew in his heart that the real reason was that God had sent angels to "camp round about" (v. 7).

What does it mean to fear God? It is forbidden for the tongue not to speak evil, and the lips not to speak slanderous words. Turn away from evil and do good, and seek peace, (v.13-14). The fear of God is to live in anticipation of God in daily life, and if a man fears God in everything, and one day he falls into trouble, God will listen to his prayers and give him all the good that he will not lack in the midst of trouble.

The last four verses of the Psalm summarize good and evil: "The righteous man suffers much, but the LORD delivers him from all this, and spares all his bones, so that not one of them will be broken." Whoever hates the righteous will be condemned. Yahweh redeems the souls of his servants; and whosoever shall take refuge in him shall not be condemned." God has mercy on us, and there is a way out for those who have sinned. By "taking refuge in Him" and accepting God's redemption, we will be "not condemned" before God.

"The LORD draws near to the brokenhearted, and saves the spiritually contrite" (v.18). This sadness does not mean that there are any difficulties that make people sad, but that they are sad about their own spirituality, and they are sad that their spirituality is not good enough. It is to grieve for one's spiritual weakness; It is the remorse of the sins you have made. I want to live better, to be more of the Lord's character, to be more like the Lord. God will draw near to a man who grieves for himself in this way. The Lord draws near to such a person, because such a person is the favorite of the Lord, and the person who is willing to pursue it in this way is a righteous person in the sight of the Lord. When such a person encounters physical afflictions, the Lord will come near to him and save him. Not a single bone or hair will be damaged when God does not allow it (v.19-20). The Lord God will come near to comfort him and embrace him.

Let's pray together:

God, I come to you with all my heart. Sometimes I don't go well in school, sometimes I get hindered in my work, sometimes I don't get along with my family, and sometimes I feel lonely. But thou art my trust, and I will bless thee ever, and the words of praise shall remain in my mouth, and my heart shall boast in God. He who seeks God lacks no good. Thank you for this time of reflection and meditation today, and please renew my heart and make me more like you.

Pray in the name of the Lord Jesus' victory. Amen!

Psalm 34^[a]

The Lord, a Provider and the One Who Rescues Me.

A Psalm of David; when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him out, and he went away.

**34 I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

2

**My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
The humble and downtrodden will hear it and rejoice.**

3

**O [a]magnify the Lord with me,
And let us lift up His name together.**

4

**I sought the Lord [on the authority of His word], and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.**

5

**They looked to Him and were radiant;
Their faces will never blush in shame or confusion.**

6

**This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
And saved him from all his troubles.**

7

**The [b]angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him [with awe-inspired reverence and
worship Him with obedience],
And He rescues [each of] them.**

8

**O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good;
How blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who takes refuge in Him.**

9

**O [reverently] fear the Lord, you His saints (believers, holy ones);
For to those who fear Him there is no want.**

10

**The young lions lack [food] and grow hungry,
But they who seek the Lord will not lack any good thing.**

11

**Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you to fear the Lord [with awe-inspired reverence and worship Him with obedience].**

12

**Who is the man who desires life
And loves many days, that he may see good?**

13

**Keep your tongue from evil
And your lips from speaking deceit.**

14

**Turn away from evil and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it.**

15

**The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous [those with moral courage and spiritual integrity]
And His ears are open to their cry.**

16

**The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
To cut off the memory of them from the earth.**

17

**When the righteous cry [for help], the Lord hears
And rescues them from all their distress and troubles.**

18

**The Lord is near to the heartbroken
And He saves those who are crushed in spirit (contrite in heart, truly sorry for their sin).**

19

Many hardships and perplexing circumstances confront the righteous,

But the Lord rescues him from them all.

20

He keeps all his bones;

Not one of them is broken.

21

Evil will cause the death of the wicked,

And those who hate the righteous will be held guilty and will be condemned.

22

The Lord redeems the soul of His servants,

And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

Psalm 34 is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving written by David, reflecting his gratitude for God's deliverance when he was in a dangerous situation. The background for this psalm is found in 1 Samuel 21:10-15, where David, fleeing from King Saul, sought refuge in the city of Gath, among the Philistines. When David feared for his life, he pretended to be insane to escape danger, and God delivered him. This psalm, therefore, is both a testimony to God's protection and an invitation to others to seek God and live according to His ways.

Psalm 34: Full Description

The psalm can be divided into several parts, each emphasizing different aspects of God's nature and our response to Him:

1. The Call to Praise (Verses 1-3)

David begins by committing to bless the Lord at all times, and his praise will continually be on his lips. He invites others to join in magnifying the Lord together.

- **1-2: David's personal resolve to continually praise God.**
- **3: David calls the assembly to exalt God's name together, showing the communal aspect of worship.**

Key Verses:

- **Psalm 34:1 - "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."**
- **Psalm 34:3 - "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."**

2. God's Deliverance (Verses 4-7)

David reflects on how God delivered him from fear and danger when he sought the Lord. God answered him, rescued him, and surrounded him with protection through His angel.

- **4: David recalls his personal experience of seeking God in distress and finding relief.**

- **5: Those who look to God for help are filled with joy and find their faces radiant.**
- **6: God hears the cry of the poor and needy and saves them.**
- **7: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them.**

Key Verses:

- **Psalm 34:4 - "I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears."**
- **Psalm 34:7 - "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them."**

3. Invitation to Taste and See (Verses 8-10)

David invites others to experience God's goodness by trusting in Him. He assures them that those who fear the Lord will lack nothing, emphasizing God's provision.

- **8: "Taste and see that the Lord is good" is an invitation to personally experience God's goodness.**
- **9-10: Those who fear the Lord, seeking Him with trust and dependence, will lack no good thing.**

Key Verses:

- **Psalm 34:8 - "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."**
- **Psalm 34:9-10 - "Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing. The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."**

4. The Call to Live Righteously (Verses 11-14)

David teaches the importance of living according to God's will, particularly in speech and actions. He encourages people to pursue peace, avoid evil, and seek righteousness.

- **11: David invites the humble to listen and learn God's ways.**
- **12-14: He teaches them to keep their tongue from evil, to turn away from sin, and to pursue peace actively.**

Key Verses:

- **Psalm 34:12-14 - "What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."**

5. God's Care for the Righteous (Verses 15-22)

David acknowledges that the righteous may face troubles, but the Lord watches over them, delivers them, and keeps them from ultimate harm. God is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

- **15-16: God's eyes are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cries.**

- **17: God delivers the righteous from all their troubles.**
- **18: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.**
- **19: Though the righteous may face many afflictions, God will deliver them from them all.**
- **20: The righteous are preserved from ultimate harm, and none of their bones will be broken.**
- **21-22: The wicked will face judgment, but God will redeem the souls of His servants, and none who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

Key Verses:

- **Psalm 34:15 - "The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears toward their cry."**
- **Psalm 34:18 - "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."**
- **Psalm 34:19 - "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."**
- **Psalm 34:22 - "The Lord redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned."**

Spiritual Influence of Psalm 34:

- 1. Encouragement to Trust in God:** Psalm 34 encourages believers to trust in God's goodness and faithfulness. The psalmist invites people to "taste and see" that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). This personal invitation speaks to the deep experiential relationship with God that every believer is invited to have.
- 2. God's Faithfulness in Deliverance:** The psalm emphasizes that God is always faithful to deliver His people in times of trouble. It reminds believers that no matter the circumstances—whether fear, oppression, or personal struggle—God is actively working to protect and deliver those who call upon Him. This instills hope in the hearts of believers, encouraging them to look to God as their ultimate protector and provider.
- 3. The Importance of Righteous Living:** Psalm 34 stresses that righteous living is key to experiencing God's blessing and protection. By urging people to turn away from evil, speak truthfully, and pursue peace, the psalm highlights how living in alignment with God's will brings peace, joy, and fulfillment. This teaches Christians to reflect on their behavior and pursue holiness.
- 4. God's Nearness to the Brokenhearted:** One of the most comforting messages in Psalm 34 is that God is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18). This speaks directly to those who are suffering emotionally or spiritually, reminding them that God is especially close in their moments of pain. It is a source of comfort and assurance for believers experiencing grief or distress.
- 5. Hope in the Midst of Affliction:** The psalm acknowledges that the righteous will face many afflictions but assures that God will deliver them from all of them (Psalm 34:19). This encourages believers to hold on to faith in the midst of trials, knowing that God's

deliverance is certain and that suffering is temporary. It challenges believers to trust God's plan and timing.

- 6. Refuge in God: The psalm repeatedly underscores the importance of seeking refuge in God. When troubles arise, believers are reminded to take shelter in God's presence, which is a place of safety and peace. This theme encourages dependence on God rather than on one's own strength or resources.**

Conclusion:

Psalm 34 is a beautiful testimony to God's goodness, faithfulness, and care for His people. It invites believers to trust in God's deliverance, live righteously, and find comfort in His presence, especially in times of trouble. This psalm not only offers assurance but also calls believers to live out their faith in practical ways, seeking peace, righteousness, and a deep trust in God's protection and provision.