

Living in the Glory of God

Psalm 34

- I. **As a believer, you are made for prayer, thanksgiving, and praise. This is God’s will for you (Psalm 34:1-3).**
 - A. The Hebrew translation of the word “times” in Verse 1 refers to circumstances, seasons, occurrences, or events (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).
 - B. Thanksgiving, praise, and prayer are how we glory in the Lord and rejoice—even in affliction (Psalm 34:2-3).
 1. Because of the joy that comes from God’s presence (Psalm 100:1-4)
 2. Because of the faith and anticipation that come from God’s presence (Psalm 100:5)

- II. **It’s not hard to take refuge in the Lord (Psalm 34:4-8).**
 - A. God doesn’t play hard-to-get (Psalm 34:4).
 - B. Many fears never happen. And for those fears that truly are threatening, you only have one good choice for victory—the fear of the Lord (Psalm 33:12-22).
 - C. Those who look to God are “radiant” (Psalm 34:5)—not like the world around us. God will never disappoint you (cover you with shame).
 - D. Coming to the end of your resources is where God’s resources often begin (Psalm 34:6; Matthew 5:3). What a glorious thing to call on the Creator of the universe, and He saves us from trouble!
 - E. Your battles are being fought on a supernatural level (Psalm 34:7). “Open our eyes, Lord” (II Kings 6:15-18)!
 - F. “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8). Blessed is the one who takes refuge in God, even before the answer comes (Psalm 33:20-22; Romans 5:1-5; 8:14-16).

- III. **Fearing the Lord pays rich dividends (Psalm 34:9-10).**
 - A. What it means to fear the Lord (Psalm 34:11-14)
 - B. I Peter quotes Psalm 34 and amplifies what it means to fear the Lord (I Peter 3:8-17). Notice how the fear of the Lord is connected to our relationships.
 - C. The bottom line: Don’t live like the unrighteous, and God will fight for you (Psalm 34:15-17).

- IV. **“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted”—not far away (Ps. 34:18-22).**
 - A. Where the Lord lives (Isaiah 57:15)
 1. The word “contrite” can be translated “crushed” (Psalm 34:18).
 2. If you have a broken and contrite heart, you’re already on the way to victory (Psalm 34:18-19; 51:16-17).
 - B. The Lord personally oversees all trouble in your life (Psalm 34:19-22; Proverbs 24:15-16; Romans 8:31-32).