

Psalm 34

A devotional guide

A stylized graphic of a city skyline at the bottom of the page. It consists of three brown rectangular buildings of varying heights. The tallest building in the center has four dark brown square windows arranged in a 2x2 grid. The shorter buildings on either side have two dark brown square windows each, also arranged in a 2x2 grid.

Steve Ellis

PSALM 34

A Devotional Guide

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Psalm 34 - A Devotional Guide

My prayer is that these short devotionals may be an encouragement and a blessing to you as you desire to move closer to the Lord.

In Psalm 34 we are encouraged to praise the name of the Lord! In the midst of difficult and challenging times we find through this Psalm the Lord is our Deliverer and the One we can trust. As our desire is for Him we can find refuge.

- Steve

PRAISE HIM

Psalm 34:1-3

“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.”

Thoughts:

The heading of this Psalm in the New King James Version reads “A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.” This directs our thoughts to ([1 Samuel 21:10-15](#)) a time when David was fleeing for his life from King Saul and flees to the city of Gath. Why would David possess such behavior in Gath? “[Gath] was famous as being the birthplace or residence of Goliath”^[1], the giant David slew. David would not

have been so popular and welcomed in Gath. Surrounded by enemies, David chooses to continually bless and praise the Lord. And as we read, we are encouraged to join magnifying and exalting His name together.

Action Points:

1. Consider how often it is that I exalt and magnify the Lord.

2. Do I praise Him continually?

3. In what ways can I magnify and exalt His name today?

notes:

1. Easton's Bible Dictionary

DELIVERER

Psalm 34:4-7

“I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.”

Thoughts:

When I last checked, my Facebook page listed 324 friends. I will admit to you that some of those friends I don't talk to very often. Some I may just keep up with from time to time on Facebook. How many close friends do you have? Friends, that with just a phone call would be there for you when you need them? Friends that you can truly count on? I hope you have a few friends like this in your life.

Psalm 34 may have been a dark time in the life of David. He is fleeing from King Saul who is trying to kill him and he flees to the city of Gath. David would not have been a very popular person in this city, as we notice in lesson one. In our reading today, David speaks about the One (that is the LORD) in whom we can truly count on - who hears us (**34:1, 6**). He also speaks of the One we can trust and depend on (**34:5, 7**). Who do we turn to in times of trouble and distress? We are reminded of the faithfulness of the Lord, He is our deliverer. The Lord is close to each of us and He is One we can count on. Yes the Lord knows our past. He knows our sin. He knows our regrets and shames. In knowing all this He chooses to love us (**John 3:16**), to not turn us away. And He chooses to deliver us from our fears and sins.

Action Points:

1. Reflect back on the Lord's faithfulness and thank Him for delivering us from our sins and fears.

2. Do I trust the Lord? Consider where I turn in my times of trouble. Do I turn to the Lord or do I seek to escape through substances and relationships?

3. Be thankful for true friendships and those who encourage us in the Lord. You may want to send a text message to let someone know how much you appreciate their friendship.

TRUSTING HIM

Psalm 34:8-10

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.”

Thoughts:

Golf has been the hardest game I have ever tried to learn. I will admit that even today I am still not very good at it. My answer has always been to work harder, to put in more effort and to force results...you know, trust in my ability! When it comes to our salvation and our walk in the Lord, who do we trust? Is our confidence in our ability or do we trust in the completed work of the Lord? The apostle Paul records in ([Ephesians 2: 8-9](#)) *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not*

of works, lest anyone should boast.” Paul is speaking about works of the Law and that our salvation is not accomplished through the keeping of the Law of Moses. Our salvation is in the Lord’s grace through faith. How often can our attitudes become like that of the Pharisees, where we trust in our abilities and not in the Lord?

Action Points:

1. Where is our trust? Examine your life and ask tough questions. Do I trust my abilities or am I trusting the Lord?

2. Where is my focus? Am I focused on my abilities or am I seeking the Lord?

3. Who is it that I seek? Seeking the Lord is more than knowing about Him. Seeking Him is to know Him and apply His words and ways to my life. Am I seeking Him?

DESIRING GOD

Psalm 34:11-14

“Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.”

Thoughts:

This past year my youngest daughter wanted a new tricycle for Christmas. So we purchased one and the night before Christmas we began to assemble her new red tricycle. Being who I am, I thought “who needs the instructions to assemble a simple tricycle?” Well, when I was just about done assembling the tricycle I had to take everything apart and start all over again. I had left out an important bolt that had to be put in place, in a certain order. In the verses above, we need to build according to the Lord's design. If we are

going to grow and mature as Christians, it will be according to the Lord's design. This will include our language and character being built according to His instructions. Do we desire God? Desiring God means we are moving in the direction of God. Without reading and applying His instructions it will be impossible for us to move and work as we are designed.

Action Points:

1. What does our speech tell others about us? In (James 3), James wrote about controlling our speech. In (James 3: 9,10) he talks about our tongue *“With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”* What does our language reflect?

2. Are we desiring God? What does our character teach others about us? In (Ephesians 5: 1,2) we

are told *“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”* In our character are we imitating God, are we following His pattern?

3. Are we applying His instructions? We will not work as we are designed to work apart from His instructions. Daily spend time in His Word and in prayer with a desire to understand His instructions and design for us.

REASSURANCE

Psalm 34: 15-22

“The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.”

Thoughts:

There are often times in life when we feel alone and isolated. Trials, hardships, and difficulties will

come our way. In these times it may seem as if the Lord is not walking with us. I remember when my mother passed away. It was a difficult and dark time in my life. It seemed as if the Lord did not care. It felt as if He was not there for me. My prayers seemed pointless as no one would hear them. David, as you recall in the context of this Psalm, is surrounded by those who would desire to harm him. David's faith and confidence in the Lord are not based in his feelings but on the promises of God. He [God] is with the righteous and His ears are open their cry. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart. The Lord delivers us from our distress and in Him we have redemption. Our feelings can at times betray us but the promises of God will never change. Our confidence, our reassurance are not based on feelings but God's unfailing promises.

Action Points:

1. Choose to exalt His name in all things.

2. Trust in God's promises [His Word] even when my feelings and emotions tell me something differently.

3. Reach out to the Lord in prayer. There may be times when it feels as if our prayers are not going higher than the ceiling. Don't let this keep you from expressing the desire of your heart to the Lord. He hears our cries.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

What does the Bible say?

Hear the Word of God
([Matthew 13: 9](#); [Romans 10: 17](#))

Believe That Jesus Is The Son of God
([John 8: 24](#); [Hebrews 11: 6](#))

Repent Of Your Past Sins
([Luke 13: 3, 5](#); [Acts 17: 30](#))

Confess Your Faith In Christ
([Acts 8: 37](#))

Be Baptized Into Christ
([Mark 16: 16](#); [Acts 2: 38](#); [1 Peter 3: 21](#))

Serve The Lord Faithfully
([Romans 6: 17](#); [Revelation 2: 10](#))

Have you followed God's Word? If not, would you consider doing so today?

THANK YOU!

I want to thank you personally for your time and effort through this study. It is my prayer that this devotional study has been an encouragement to you as you desire to grow in the Lord. We at simplyrevised.org are dedicated to growing, strengthening, encouraging and equipping Christians in the Lord. It is also our desire to share the good news of Christ with others. We pray our efforts assist in accomplishing this goal.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

For questions or comments, please contact us by email at <simplyrevised@icloud.com>

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