

You Are Closer Than You Think

Psalm 34

- I. You were made for praise, regardless of the season (Ps. 34:1-3).**
 - A. The Hebrew word translated “times” refers to circumstances, seasons, occurrences, or events (Psalm 34:1; I Thessalonians 5:16-18).
 - B. Thanksgiving and praise cause the afflicted to hear and rejoice (Psalm 34:2).
 1. Because of God’s presence (Psalm 100:1-4; Matthew 6:9)
 2. In anticipation of God’s faithfulness (Psalm 100:5)

- II. You can easily take refuge in the Lord (Psalm 34:4-8).**
 - A. Take your fears to the Lord (Psalm 34:4).
 1. Most fears never happen.
 2. Of those fears that truly are threatening, you really only have one good choice (Psalm 33:12-22).
 - B. You can become radiant (Psalm 34:5). There are huge purposes for your life (Matthew 24:14; Isaiah 49:1-6).
 - C. When you come to the end of your resources, you will find God’s resources (Psalm 34:6-7; Matthew 5:3).
 - D. Understand where the battles of your life are really being fought (Psalm 34:7; II Kings 6:15-17).
 - E. “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8).
 1. Before the answer (Psalm 33:20-22; Romans 5:3-5)
 2. After the answer

- III. Fearing the Lord pays rich dividends. We lack no good thing (Psalm 34:9-10)!**
 - A. What it means to fear the Lord (Psalm 34:11-14)
 1. Living in harmony with others (I Peter 3:8-12)
 2. Suffering for doing good, not evil (I Peter 3:13-17)
 - B. The bottom line: Stop joining the enemy; then God will fight for you. Cry out, and the Lord will deliver you from all your troubles (Ps. 34:15-17).

- IV. “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted” (Psalm 34:18-22).**
 - A. Where the Lord lives (Isaiah 57:15)
 - B. If you have a broken and contrite heart, you’re already on the way to victory (Psalm 51:16-19).
 - B. The Lord oversees all trouble in your life (Psalm 34:19-20; Proverbs 24:15-16; Romans 8:31-32).

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