

God Is Closer than You Think

Psalm 34

- I. You were made for giving thanksgiving and praise to God, regardless of what is going on in your life (Psalm 34:1-3).**
 - A. The Hebrew word translated “times” in Psalm 34:1 refers to circumstances, seasons, occurrences, or events (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).
 - B. These Old Testament and New Testament verses reflect a certain posture toward the Lord that is supernatural and aggressive—always looking for the activity and voice of the Lord in your life—overcoming “every kind of evil” (Acts 16:22-31, 34; E.g., Cambodia and Sophal Ung).
 1. Worship gives us access to the very courts of the Lord (Psalm 100:1-5).
 2. Worship and praise anticipate the Lord’s fruitful intervention in our lives (Matthew 6:9-10).

- II. You can always take refuge in the Lord.**
 - A. You can take your fears to the Lord (Psalm 34:4).
 - B. When you look to the Lord, you become “radiant,” not ashamed (Psalm 34:5).
 - C. You can take refuge in the Lord by calling out to God even when you are at the end of your resources (Psalm 34:6).
 - D. Taking refuge in the Lord means understanding where your battles are really being fought (Psalm 34:7; II Kings 6:15-17—E.g., Elisha’s servant).
 - E. We can always “taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8).

- III. What those who fear the Lord and cry out to Him can expect**
 - A. They will “lack no good thing” (Psalm 34:9-10).
 - B. The Lord will be attentive to their cry and deliver them from all trouble (Ps. 34:17).

- IV. What does it mean for the Lord to be close to the brokenhearted?**
 - A. The Lord is close and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18).
 - B. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all” (Psalm 34:19).
 - C. The Lord will rescue His servants; no one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned (Psalm 34:22).
 - D. The Lord oversees all trouble in your life (Romans 8:31-39).
 - E. “For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again. But the wicked stumble when calamity strikes” (Proverbs 24:16).

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