

Taste and See that the Lord Is Good

Psalm 34

- I. **Getting heaven's attention with worship and praise (Psalm 34:1-3)**
 - A. We can "taste the Lord" in worship even before we receive answers to our prayers (Psalm 34:1, 8).
 - B. Worshiping in affliction is "boasting in the Lord" (Psalm 34:2).
 - C. Praising, praying, and giving thanks in all circumstances is God's will for us and paves the way for deliverance from evil (Psalm 34:3; I Thessalonians 5:16-18). This is how we enter the very presence of God (Psalm 100).

- II. **Calling on the Lord at all times (Psalm 34:4-10)**
 - A. God promises to deliver us from all of our fears and shame (Psalm 34:4-6).
 - B. The Hebrew word for "called" (Psalm 34:6) is rarely a random outcry. It usually refers to a specific message to a specific recipient for a specific response.
 - C. Fearing the Lord means turning to the Lord to take refuge from our problems. What we say is incredibly important. Our words activate angelic activity for our benefit (Psalm 34:7, 8) If you say, "The Lord is my refuge..." (Psalm 91:9-16).

- III. **God's eyes are on the righteous, and He listens to the cry of those who fear the Lord and show mercy to others (Psalm 34:11-17).**
 - A. There is the righteousness given by God to everyone who receives Jesus (II Corinthians 5:21; Psalm 34:15, 17; Hebrews 4:14-16).
 - B. There is the righteousness that expresses itself in love toward others. Notice how Peter quotes Psalm 34:12-16 (I Peter 3:8-12).
 - C. When we show others the mercy we have received from God, we receive "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together" (Luke 6:35-41).

- IV. **The Lord is close to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18-22).**
 - A. The Hebrew word for "broken" literally means "to break in pieces." It often appears in the context of violence (Psalm 34:18).
 - B. The place where God lives (Isaiah 57:15).
 - C. Even when there are many troubles, the Lord delivers us from them all (Psalm 34:17, 19, 22).
 - D. We don't live a pain-free life, but we have a mighty deliverer (Proverbs 24:16).

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