

From Foolish Pretense to Wise Dependence

Psalm 34



NOTES

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Psalm 34 (NIV): Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelek [royal Philistine title] [Achish, King of Gath, Goliath's home city]. David is on the run. Written in and sung from Cave of Adullam. An acrostic psalm.

¹I will **extol (magnify)** the **LORD** at *all times*; His praise will *always* be on my lips.²I will glory in the **LORD**; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. ³**Glorify** the **LORD** with me; let us **exalt** His name together.

⁴I **sought** the **LORD**, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. ⁵Those who **look** to Him are **radiant**; their faces are never covered with shame. ⁶This *poor man* called, and the **LORD** heard him; He saved him out of all his *troubles*. ⁷The angel of the **LORD** encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.

⁸**Taste and see** that the **LORD** is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. ⁹**Fear** the **LORD**, you His holy people, for those who fear Him lack nothing. ¹⁰The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who **seek** the **LORD** lack no good thing.

¹¹**Come**, my children, **listen** to me; I will teach you the **fear of the LORD**. ¹²Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, ¹³**keep your tongue from evil** and your lips from telling lies. ¹⁴**Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it**.

¹⁵The eyes of the **LORD** are on the righteous, and His ears are attentive to their cry; ¹⁶but the face of the **LORD** is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth. ¹⁷The **righteous cry** out, and the **LORD** hears them; He delivers them from all their **troubles**. ¹⁸The **LORD** is close to the **broken-hearted** and saves those who are **crushed in spirit**. ¹⁹The righteous person may have **many troubles**, but the **LORD** delivers him from them all; ²⁰He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. ²¹Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. ²²The **LORD** will rescue His servants; no one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned.

Back Story of Young David Fleeing Saul (I Samuel 21:10-15; 22:1, 2)

- On the run, foolishness, discovered, pretending craziness as means to escape
- Stuck in cave with 100 distressed, in debt and discontented others

Worthy of Our Praise: Blessing, Boasting and Buoyant Praise (1-3)

- LORD (15x) Jehovah or Yahweh is the covenant name of God. Occurs 6823 times in the OT
- Extolling (magnifying)
- Glorifying (boasting)
- Exalting, hearing, rejoicing

The Great Deliverer: Experiences of Deliverance (4-7)

- Seeking, looking, radiating and calling
- Delivered from fears, shame, poverty, and troubles

Our Good, Good God: Experiencing, Fearing, and Seeking YAHWEH (8-10)

- Taste test, seeing, fearing (reverent awe) and seeking
- Fear as wisdom and dependence (Prov 1:7; 8:13); taking refuge in the One who offers blessing, courage, safety/security and no lacking ('praise pays')

Advice for Living from a Transformed and Grateful Pretender (11-14)

- Come and listen, fear the LORD
- Keep tongue under control (no lies)
- Turn from evil and do good
- Seek and pursue peace

Attentions and Actions of YAHWEH (15-22) *Notice Anthropomorphic language

- Deep care, sympathy, companionship for troubled, mending the broken-hearted, crushed, afflicted
- The gift of no condemnation: Acquitted by Jesus Christ (Rom 8:1)

Essence of Today's Message: Leave your pretending and start depending on the Lord Jesus Christ who is altogether worthy of your praise. He is Good. He Delivers. He is Great. He "gets" us. He is the great need-meeter; with Him there is no lacking. **He saves us. He has redeemed us with His Love.**

Respond to His offer of salvation. Seek first-hand experience of His love. Move beyond knowing about Him to experiencing Him. **Revere** Him. **Respond** in praise to Him. **Radiate** Him. **Rest** in Him.

Invitation to Respond

We rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender; we go not forth alone against the foe;
Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender. We rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go.

Yea, in Thy Name, O Captain of salvation! In Thy dear Name, all other names above;
Jesus our Righteousness, our sure Foundation, our Prince of glory and our King of love.

We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling, and needing more each day Thy grace to know:
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing; we rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go.

We rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender: Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the praise
When reigning in the Kingdom of Thy splendor; victors, we rest with Thee, through endless days.