

Psalm 34 A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away

Let's all praise the LORD together

¹ I will praise and magnify the LORD. In fact, I will raise my voice in praise and adoration to Him every waking moment of the day. ² I love to brag about the greatness of the LORD, and when I do, humble people will hear me and be thrilled about it. ³ Folks, join with me, and let's lift up the great name of the LORD, Jesus Christ¹. Yes, let's magnify His name together.

Trust the LORD like me

⁴ When Abimelech was holding me captive, I was afraid I was about to die. I prayed to the LORD for help, and He rescued me from all of my fears. ⁵ Others who were being held captive along with me were radiant with joy, and they, too, were not ashamed of their faith in the LORD. ⁶ I am poor and needy, but the LORD heard my humble cry for help, and He saved me from all of my troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD stands watch over those who have a biblical fear of the LORD. Those who have a genuine fear of the LORD not only practice doing good so that they won't disappoint their heavenly Father, but also avoid or abandon every sinful practice so that sin won't break their sweet fellowship with the Father. That angel surrounding believers is sent by God to rescue such people.

⁸ Place your complete faith and trust in the LORD, and experience how good and blessed He will be to you. ⁹⁻¹⁰ Be assured that those who fear the LORD with a biblical fear will never have a need that the LORD does not meet at the right time, in the right place, and in the right measure. Worldly people will have lots of needs that go totally unfulfilled, but those who seek to know the LORD in a personal, intimate way will never lack what they need.

¹¹ Folks, listen to me, and I will teach you what you need to know in order to acquire and maintain a biblical fear of the LORD. ¹²⁻¹⁴ The following are some of the things that will distinguish a man who loves life, wants a long and full life, and seeks to experience good things:

He will not use the language of evil men,
He will not purposely misrepresent the truth for the purpose of his own gain,
He will avoid or abandon sinful practices and do good in their place, and
He will seek peace and do it with every ounce of his being.

¹⁵ The LORD looks favorably upon those who live in a good and godly manner, and He will listen attentively to their cry for help. ¹⁶ Oh, but He looks upon evildoers with disgust, and He will cut them down and send them to the grave. ¹⁷ When a good and godly man cries out for help, the LORD listens with interest, and He rescues him from

his troubles. ¹⁸ The LORD is personal with those who are broken over their sin, and He saves those who are truly repentant.

¹⁹ Every child of God will experience trials and testing, but the LORD will not burden them with more than He knows they are able to bear.

²⁰ David prophesied in this verse that none of Christ's bones would be broken at His death.

²¹ Two things are absolutely certain: 1) the sins wicked people commit will be the very things that bring about their demise, and ²² 2) the LORD redeems the souls of His children who trust in Jesus Christ as savior. No one who trusts in Him will be condemned. Christ paid the penalty for their sins when He died on the cross of Calvary.

¹ In John 14:6 Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "the LORD, Jesus Christ" has been used.