

# Calling on the Lord

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## *Psalm 34*

- I. **Getting heaven's attention with worship and praise (Psalm 34:1-3).**
  - A. We can "taste" the Lord in worship and perceive His goodness even before we see answers to our prayers (Psalm 34:1, 8).
  - B. Worshiping in affliction glorifies the Lord (Psalm 34:2, 3).
  - C. Praising, praying, and giving thanks in all circumstances are God's will for us. This is how we clear the way for deliverance from all our fears and enemies (Psalm 34:3-4; I Thessalonians 5:16-18).
  - D. We enter the very presence of God with thanksgiving and praise (Psalm 100; Psalm 27:3-6).
  
- II. **Calling on the Lord at all times (Psalm 34:4-10).**
  - A. God promises to deliver us from all our fear and shame as we call out to Him (Psalm 34:4-6). We exchange our fear for the fear of the Lord (Psalm 34:7, 9, 11).
  - B. The Hebrew word for "called" in Psalm 34:6 is rarely a random outcry. It usually refers to a specific message, given to a specific recipient, for a clear purpose.
  - C. Fearing the Lord means turning to the Lord to take refuge from our problems. What we say is incredibly important. Our words and faith activate angelic activity for our benefit (Psalm 34:7). We can declare, "The Lord is my refuge..." (Psalm 91:9-16). Daniel prayed and fasted three weeks; angels came in response (Dan. 10:1-3, 10-14).
  
- 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. God gives righteousness to everyone who receives Jesus (II Corinthians 5:21; Psalm 34:15-17; Hebrews 4:14-16).
  - B. Righteousness expresses itself in love toward others. Notice the good advice Peter gives as he quotes Psalm 34 in I Peter 3:8-12.
  - C. God is attentive to your righteousness. Don't forget to cry out. You are heard! God will deliver you from all your troubles (Psalm 34:14-17).
  
- IV. **"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted..." (Psalm 34:18-22).**
  - A. The Hebrew word for "brokenhearted" literally means "to break, break in pieces." It often appears in the context of violence.
  - B. Isaiah 57:15 explains clearly where God lives.
  - C. Even when there are many troubles, the Lord delivers us from them all (Ps. 34:17-22).
  - D. We don't live a pain-free life, but we have a mighty deliverer! "For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again. But the wicked stumble when calamity strikes" (Proverbs 24:16).

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