

The Worship Song of Psalm 34

Psalm 34:1-10

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Introduction: Consider the historical setting of this Psalm. The heading of this Psalm refers to the time when David feigned himself to be mad (insane) in order to escape from the hand of Abimelech (his title, "Achish" is his proper name), as seen in I Samuel 21:10-15. David first sings a worship song of devotion (:1-10) before preaching a worship sermon of doctrine (:11-22). We will consider that sermon tonight. This Psalm of David is written in the form of an acrostic. Each of the 22 verses starts with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet (cf. Ps. 119 & Lamentations). These 10 verses have a theme of worship. Someone has defined worship as, "The occupation of the soul with God Himself" (Gibbs). Could you sing with David this worship song? Note with me here, David's exaltation of the Lord, his experience with the Lord, & his exhortation for the Lord. Could this be your song of devotion (praise) today?

I. His exaltation of the Lord (:1-3) [David exalts God for Who He is!]

A. He will bless the Lord (:1) - "What a blessed mouthful is God's praise!" (Spurgeon).

1. **Personally** - "*I will...*" (no matter what others may do; Joshua 24:15).

2. **Continually** - "*at all times*" (cf. Psalm 71:14) - "He who praises God for mercies shall never want (lack) a mercy for which to praise" (Spurgeon). - ["If we hope to spend our eternity in praising God, it is fit that we should spend as much as may be of our time (here) in this work" (Henry).]

B. He will boast in the Lord (:2)

1. "*In the LORD*" - "What scope there is for holy boasting in Jehovah! His person, attributes, covenant, promises, works, & a thousand things beside, are all incomparable, unparalleled, matchless..." (Spurgeon).

2. For the lowly ("*humble*") - "We ought to talk of the Lord's goodness on purpose that others may be confirmed in their trust in a faithful God" (Spurgeon).

C. He will magnify the Lord (:3)

1. The **ascription** of God's glory:

a. Magnify Him in our sight [We cannot make God greater or higher than He is, but we can adore & worship Him as infinitely great!].

b. Magnify Him in the sight of others [cf. use of a telescope – God is magnified!].

2. The **assistance** of all God's people:

a. Implies our inability to adequately glorify God. The need is for corporate worship.

b. "What we would have others do (Praise the Lord) we must ourselves do, & as the hearers catch our inspiration the solo will become a chorus." (Scroggie)

II. His experience with the Lord (:4-7) [David explains what God has done!]

A. Deliverance from fears (:4-5)

1. His **desire** from the Lord > "*I sought the LORD & He heard me...*"

a. Seeking for cleansing (confession) - I John 1:9.

b. Seeking for comfort (consolation) - I Peter 5:7.

2. His **deliverance** by the Lord > "... & delivered me from all my fears."

a. Delivered from fear - "God makes a perfect work of it. He cleans away both our fears & their causes, all of them without exception" (Spurgeon).

b. Delivered by faith - cf. Peter walking on the water & Heb. 12:1-2 [cf. "looked to Him" - their faces "lightened" (brightened) & they were not ashamed (disappointed)].

- B. Deliverance from troubles (:6)
 - 1. "*Poor man*" - Spiritual poverty, friendless, helpless - see Psalm 142:4.
 - 2. "*Troubles*" - Physical as well as spiritual danger.
- C. Deliverance from enemies (:7)
 - 1. The "*Angel of the LORD*":
 - a. Compare Exodus 23:20, Joshua 5:13-15, & Isaiah 63:9 (Pre-incarnate Christ?).
 - b. One of the ministering angels - Hebrews 1:14?
 - 2. The activity of the Lord:
 - a. "*Delivereth*" - to serve, defend, console (guardian angels?, Mat. 18:10).
 - b. "We little know how many providential deliverances we owe to those unseen hands which are charged to bear us up lest we dash our foot against a stone" (Spurgeon, see Ps. 91:10-12). "No matter how we feel or how dismal the circumstances appear, the safest place in the world is in the will of God" (Wiersbe).

III. His exhortation for the Lord (:8-10) [David exhorts others to see what God can do for them!]

- A. "Taste" (:8) > Salvation
 - 1. **Experience**, put to the test, appropriate for oneself:
 - a. Appropriate His grace - Romans 10:13 [taste for oneself, not for another].
 - b. Appreciate His goodness - I Peter 2:3, "*If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*"
 - 2. "**Trust**" (O.T. word for faith) - parallel with the word "taste":
 - a. The object of our trust - "*in Him*" (cf. Pro. 3:5-6).
 - b. The outcome of our trust - "*blessed*" (cf. Ps. 32:1-2).
- B. "Fear" (:9) > Sanctification
 - 1. The **command** to fear [The fear of the Lord conquers all our other fears.]:
 - a. "Pay to Him humble childlike reverence, walk in His laws, have respect to His will, tremble to offend Him, hasten to serve Him" (Spurgeon).
 - b. Compare Deuteronomy 6:13 with Matthew 4:10 (Worship before service).
 - 2. The **consequence** of fear:
 - a. Our needs supplied; cf. Psalm 37:23-25 with Philippians 4:19.
 - b. "Many whims & wishes may remain ungratified, but real wants (needs) the Lord will supply." (Spurgeon) - ["*Fear the Lord,*' that is, worship Him, & make conscious of your duty to Him in everything, not fear Him & shun Him, but fear Him & seek Him, as a people seek unto their God; address yourselves to Him, portion yourselves in Him"].
- C. "Seek" (:10) > Satisfaction
 - 1. The **contrast** - Lions, though fierce, strong & cunning can die from starvation.
 - 2. The **comfort** - "No really good thing shall be denied to those whose first & main end in life is to seek the Lord." (Spurgeon) see Matthew 6:33 & Ps. 84:11-12 ["What God denies them He will give them grace to be content without & then they do not want it (Deut. 3:26) ...those that live by faith in God's all-sufficiency want nothing; for in Him they have enough" (Henry).] God gives the best to those who leave the choice up to Him.

Conclusion: Have you had a similar experience with the Lord? Are you being delivered from your fears, your troubles, & your spiritual enemies? If not, why not heed the exhortation given here by David to taste & see that the Lord is good? Will you fear Him & seek Him with all your heart? Once you are sure of your salvation, you can exalt the Lord by blessing Him, by boasting in Him, & by magnifying Him. As believers, we should magnify the Lord together as we exalt His most worthy & precious name. By our song & our testimony we can exhort others to trust in the Lord.

If you do not know the Savior, hear again the words of the Scripture, "*O taste & see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*" Will this be your song of worship this morning?