

THE LORD PROTECTS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM

While Jesus was announcing the good news concerning the kingdom of heaven and teaching about those who would enter it, he warned people not to trust in their own abilities and not to place value on nor ultimately hope in wealth. People who seek wealth and prosperity as their means for security will, at some point, be disappointed. Jesus talked about people's anxiety over physical needs and desires, then he stated what was truly important and worthy of someone's time and attention. Matthew 6:33, *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

In ancient Israel, David believed the very same things about the LORD. For him, Yahweh's instructions were the best. God's teachings might not be what was popular, but they were exactly what people needed to hear and obey. The LORD would be faithful to those who trust in him and who seek after him.

Psalm 34 is a great example of David's total trust in the LORD. The psalm breaks down into several sections:

1. Praise for the LORD (1-3)
2. Provision from the LORD (4-10)
3. Proper Focus (11-14)
4. Providential Protection (15-22)

God is worthy of our praise. Even if all we did all day every day was shout praises to God, it would not, nor could not, be too much or more than he deserves. If we seek him with the right motives, he will provide what we need. Our focus should be on him and promoting his kingdom instead of ourselves. When we walk with the LORD and follow his instructions, he hears us and will deliver us.

I encourage you to keep spending time in the psalms. Meditate on Psalm 34 and know that your trust in God is not silly or superstitious as some would have you think. You may say, however, that David is painting too rosy a picture of life. David is using beautiful, poetic imagery to state very real, fundamental truths. Because there are those (both physical and spiritual beings) who are opposed to God and his will, our physical lives will never be "perfect." However, David was certain just like the Apostle Paul when he wrote, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose* (Romans 8:28).

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