

Testifying to the Peace of God! Psalm 34

ONE THING

During these troubling days we are called to not only WALK in God's peace, but to also WITNESS to God's peace.

Last week we looked at how David showed FIVE SYMPTOMS of Panic...

Five Symptoms of Panic

- #1 - Fretting over Possibilities
- #2 - Fleeing into Isolation
- #3 - Forgoing the Truth
- #4 - Forgetting God's Promises
- #5 - Following Our Emotions



Psalm 34:title (ESV) — OF DAVID, WHEN HE CHANGED HIS BEHAVIOR BEFORE ABIMELECH, SO THAT HE DROVE HIM OUT, AND HE WENT AWAY.

לְדָוִד בְּשִׁנּוֹתַי אֶת־טַעַמוֹ לִפְנֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וַיִּגְרֶשׁהוּ וַיֵּלֶךְ: 1

Psalm 56:title (ESV) — To the choirmaster: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths. A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

Psalm 56, by the way it is written was either written while David was imprisoned in Gath, or was written from that perspective...

It's as though we are there with him while he is being mistreated and maligned ...

When we come to Psalm 34, however, it is written with deep thought and from the perspective of looking back ...

Following David's release from Gath he made his way to the cave of Adullam...

While David was there, many others began to join him.

These were relatives, friends, fellow soldiers, and even a priest....

They were being hunted by Saul because of their friendship and connection with David...

1. INITIATE your testimony with PRAISE

Psalm 34:1–4 (ESV) — *I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. 3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.*

Isaiah 26:3 (ESV) — *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.*

1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 אֲבָרְכָה אֶת־יְהוָה בְּכָל־עֵת תָּמִיד תִּהְיֶה־לִּי בְּפִי:

2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

3 בִּיהוָה תִּתְהַלֵּל נַפְשִׁי יִשְׁמְעוּ עֲבָדָיו וְיִשְׁמְחוּ:

3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

4 גָּדְלוּ לַיהוָה אֱתִי וְנִרְמַמְהָ שְׁמוֹ יַחְדָּו:

“magnify” is in the imperative (piel 2nd person)

Magnify is the word, “gadol” which means to honor or glorify

4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

5 דָּרַשְׁתִּי אֶת־יְהוָה וְעֲנָנִי וּמַכְל־מְגִוֹרוֹתַי הִצִּילָנִי:

2. IDENTIFY with their PAIN

Psalm 34:5–7 (ESV) — *Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.*

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV) — *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

5 Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

6 הַבֵּיטוּ אֵלָיו וְנִהְרֹוּ וּפְנֵיהֶם אֵלֵי־חַפְרוּ:

→ There is a break in the alphabetic poetry here...

→ There is no “waw” verse...

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 זָה עֲבִי קָרָא וַיהוָה שָׁמַע וּמַכְל־צָרוֹתָיו הוֹשִׁיעֵוּ:

7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

8 חֲנֵה מִלְאֲרֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים טֹבִיב לִירְאֵיו וְיִחַלְצֶם:

3. INFLUENCE them with PASSION

Psalm 34:8–10 (ESV) — Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! 9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

As parents, we have all had our kids try tasting things just to see their reaction...

- Giving a baby a lemon to watch their facial contortions...
- Given something hot like a RED HOT or jalapeno...
- Nasty jelly beans... (vomit)

By the time we are reaching adulthood, we won't taste anything someone gives us without making a full inspection...

OR → We make them try it first!

Here in verse eight, David is saying, “I’ve tasted the goodness of God! You need to do the same!”

→ Your PASSION about God’s goodness in the midst of trouble will draw others to want to take a taste!!!!

8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

9 טַעֲמוּ וְרְאוּ כִּי־טוֹב יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־יִחַסֶּה־בְּכֶם:

Both “taste” and “see” are imperatives

9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

10 יִרְאוּ אֶת־יְהוָה קִדְשָׁיו כִּי־אֵין מַחְסוֹר לִירְאָיו:

“Fear” is an imperative

10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

11 בַּפִּירִים רָנְסוּ וְרַעְבּוּ וְדַרְשׁוּ יְהוָה לֹא־יִחְסְרוּ כֹּל־טוֹב:

1 John 4:18 (ESV) — There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

4. INSTRUCT them with PURPOSE

Psalm 34:11–14 (ESV) — Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. 12 What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

David called out their longing!

Psalm 34:12 (ESV) — What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

We must meet them in their pain, but then call to their longing!

1 Peter 3:10–12 (ESV) — For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

11 Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

12 לְכוּ בְּנִים שְׁמְעוּ לִי יִרְאַת יְהוָה אֶלְמִדְכֶם:

Both “come” and “listen” are imperatives

12 What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

13 מִי־הָאִישׁ הַחֹפֵץ חַיִּים אֲהִב יָמִים לְרְאוֹת טוֹב:

13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

14 נָצַר לְשׁוֹנֵף מִרְעַע אִשְׁפָּתָיו מִדַּבֵּר מִרְמָה:

“Keep” is an imperative

14 Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

15 סוּר מִרְעַע וְעִשֵׂה־טוֹב בְּקִשׁ שְׁלוֹם וְרַדְּפֵהוּ:

“Turn”, “Do”, “Seek” and “Pursue” are imperatives

Turn ... from evil (moral impurity)

Do ... good (that which is good or right or beneficial)

Seek (to search, look for, to learn information about) ... peace (shalom – completeness, wholeness)

Pursue (to chase, to make linear motion with considerable effort and focus) ... it (refers back to shalom)

5. INVITE them into your peace with PERSUASION

Psalm 34:15–22 (ESV) — The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. 17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. 20 He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. 21 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. 22 The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

David ends by pointing down two PATHS

One PATH leads to God's PEACE

The other PATH leads DESPAIR, DEVESTATION, DESTRUCTION, and DEATH...

15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

16 עֵינֵי יְהוָה אֶל-צְדִיקִים וְאָזְנוֹ אֶל-שׁוֹעֲתָם:

16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

17 פְּנֵי יְהוָה בְּעֲשֵׂי רָע לְהַכְרִית מֵאָרֶץ זְכָרָם:

17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 צָעֲקוּ וַיהוָה שָׁמַע וּמִכָּל-צָרוֹתֵם הִצִּילָם:

18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

19 קָרַב יְהוָה לְנִשְׁבְּרֵי-לֵב וְאֶת-דַּבְּאֵי-רוּחַ יוֹשִׁיעַ:

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

20 רַבּוֹת רָעוֹת צָדִיק אִמְבָּלָם יִצִּילֵנוּ יְהוָה:

20 He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.

21 שָׁמַר כָּל-עַצְמוֹתָיו אַחַת מִהֵנָּה לֹא נִשְׁבְּרָה:

21 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

22 תָּמוּתַת רָשָׁע רָעָה וְשֹׂנְאֵי צְדִיק יִאֲשָׁמוּ:

22 The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

23 פִּדְדָה יְהוָה נַפְשׁ עַבְדָּיו וְלֹא יִאֲשָׁמוּ כָּל-הַחֹסִים בּוֹ:

This final verse doesn't follow the alliteration using the Hebrew alphabet...

This is a culminating statement for the Psalm!

Testifying to the Peace of God!
Psalm 34

1. _____ *your testimony with* _____

2. _____ *with their* _____

3. _____ *them with* _____

4. _____ *them with* _____

5. _____ *them into your peace with*
