**Hope in Despair – Ps. 34:18**

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*

*Nothing is more powerful than the story of those who have experienced the presence of God in their troubles! – David tells of God’s presence in his help when he was captured by enemies*

**Focal Truth: Live in the awareness of God’s presence**

**Observations**

1. **The God who is near hears those who pray to Him 34:4 – 7**

Ex. 2:24 – *God heard their groaning, he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob*

1. David promises to praise God all the time – **regardless of His conditions** 34:1 -3
2. David praises the God who hears **prayers for help** 34:4 -6
* ***Prayer is seeking God as well as asking God***

*I sought the Lord and He answered me*

* ***Prayer leads to salvation***

I sought the Lord and He answered me and **delivered me from all my fears**

* ***Prayer produces hopefulness & removes shame***
* *They looked to Him & were radiant, their faces were never ashamed*
* ***Prayer speaks to the God who hears and answers***
* *This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles*

 *Deut. 4:7 – the Lord God is near us whenever we pray to him*

*This is the confidence we have before Him, that If we ask anything according to His will,* ***He hears us****. And if* ***we know that He hears u****s in whatever we ask,* ***we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.*** *1 J 5:14 -15*

*I love the Lord because He hears my voice and my supplications Ps.116:1*

1. **The God who is near protects those who fear Him 34: 7 – 14**
2. David praises the God who send His angels **to protect & rescue** **those who fear God**

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him. And rescues them 34:7*

1. David calls for believers **to experience the good protection of God**

O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! 34:8

**The believers experience of God’s protection is tasting & seeing His goodness!**

1. David reminds those who fear God that they **will never lack for anything** 34:8 - 10

*O fear the Lord, you His saints; for to those who fear Him there is no want 34:9*

*The young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing 34:10*

1. David describes **a God fearing life**  34: 11 – 14
* **Whoever desires long life must:**
1. Control His tongue
2. Depart from an evil life style
3. Do good to others
4. Seek peace with others

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments – Ps. 111:10*

1. **The God who is near sees those who live for Him 34:15 – 17**
2. David reminds that **the God who is near is the God who sees!**

*The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous & His ears are open to their cry 34:15*

1. David warns that **the God who is near resists & judges evil doers**

*The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth 34:16*

1. David promises that **the God who is near hears & delivers those who live for Him**

*The righteous cry & the Lord hears & delivers them out of all their troubles 34:17*

Gen. 16:13 – *You are a God who sees me, have I lived after He saw me: Hagar*

1. **The God who is near comforts those who are in despair 34:18 – 22**
2. David assures that **the God who is near is the God who is present with in the pain**

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted& saves those who are crushed in spirit 34:18*

1. David reminds that **the God who is near delivers from painful afflictions**

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken 34:19*

**At the cross the Lord Jesus died and His bones were not broken!**

1. David promises that **the God who is near judges those who do evil**

*Evil shall slay the wicked, & those who hate the righteous will be condemned 34:20*

1. David assures that **the God who is near never condemns the righteous**

*The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, & none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned 34:21*

**Consider – The God who is near is the God of all comfort**

2 Cor. 1: 3 – 5 – *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we are comforted by God.*

***You need not cry very loud, He is nearer to us than we think – Bro. Lawrence***

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **Rest in the Holy Spirit’s presence**

*I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever J. 14:16*

1. **Believe Jesus promise – I am with you always! – Matt. 28:20**
2. **Draw near to the God who is near – Heb. 10:22**

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water H. 10:22*