



## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great Things, Psalm 34, Yes and Amen

## WELCOME

Have you ever felt disappointed by unfulfilled promises or unmet expectations? Share one which was the most disappointing to you, and why it was so.

## WORD

### PSALM 34

*<sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. <sup>2</sup>My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice. <sup>3</sup>O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. <sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. <sup>5</sup>They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed. <sup>6</sup>This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him And saved him out of all his troubles. <sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. <sup>8</sup>O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!*

What are you holding on to when life lets you down? Many of us have felt disappointed with people, disappointed with ourselves, with circumstances, and to be honest, with God. When life lets you down, **HOLD ON TO GOD'S PROMISES**. According to the Bible: God has an impeccable record in keeping His promises. He will do it and He will make it good (**Numbers 23:19**). God's promise-keeping track record is 100% (**Joshua 21:45**). Not one of God's promises failed. All of them came to pass.

Our message is based on Psalm 34 and the background of the psalm is revealed in its introduction: A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech. David was running away from King Saul who was hunting him down to kill him. In his desperation, David went to the Philistines and King Abimelech—his enemies. When David realized how much danger he was in, he pretended to be crazy and Abimelech drove him away! This psalm is what David wrote coming from that experience.

In **Psalm 34:1-8**, David declares his praises for God and encourages us to do the same. We are to **"bless"** (praise, adore, salute), **"boast"** (rave, celebrate), and **"magnify"** (make great) the LORD (**vv. 1-3**). God is saying that if there is one thing that we should celebrate it is that we understand and know Him (**Jeremiah 9:23-24**). Compared to wisdom, might and riches, the most precious thing we could ever have is a personal relationship with God. Only when we have a personal relationship with God can we experience who He is.

In **vv. 4-5**, God answered and delivered David from his fears. David might have feared being tortured or killed by the Philistines or being turned over to Saul. It's normal to have fears, but we need to bring them to the LORD. This psalm is reminding us that when we look back, we will not be disappointed

The **"Angel of the Lord"** is God and by the word **"encamps"**, it means He goes with us wherever we go (**v.7**). David was not just speaking from a one-time experience with God. He had personally

known God for many years. Knowing God personally changed David's perspective, even as a young man. (**1 Samuel 17:37**).

Continuing to **v.8**, **"refuge"** means to put your trust in that place or person. David was declaring if you put your trust in the Lord, you are most blessed. But why did he say, **"taste and see"**? David is saying: trust Him. Don't turn your back on Him. Don't doubt Him. Hold on to His promises and you will see that the LORD is good. In **Psalm 34:9-22**, David declares the promises of God that are meant for God's people, followers of Jesus.

### **Promise #1: GOD WILL PROVIDE ALL THAT IS GOOD FOR YOU. (vv. 9-14)**

**"Fear"** is deep reverence or awe that is due God that draws you to Him—His beauty and His holiness. All of the wisest and most powerful people in the world put together cannot compare to God. There is none like God (**Jeremiah 10:7**).

**"Saints"** are living people made holy through a relationship with God. They are sanctified (set apart and made holy) by God. They are saints by calling, not by their own doing. A person becomes a saint because of what Jesus did for us (**1 Corinthians 1:2**). God promises the saints that He will always give what is good and will never lack, unlike that of young lions (**v.10**) who lack and go hungry.

How can we be sure that God will give us good things? **a. God's character is good.** God's integrity is perfect (**James 1:17**). **b. God's motive is good.** Everything he does or allows in our lives are meant to conform us to the image of Jesus (**Romans 8:28-29**). David goes on to challenge us that there must be evidence that we are saints who fear the Lord. That evidence is the good life—a life that pleases God. The proof is in your speech (**Proverbs 12:22**) and in your actions (**2 Timothy 2:22, Romans 12:18**).

WORD (cont'd)

**Promise #2: GOD SEES YOU, HEARS YOU AND IS NEAR YOU. (vv.15-18)**

We see Anthropomorphism (the application of human characteristics to God) in **vv. 15-16**. It somehow makes God more understandable and reachable to us. But who are the righteous? When we, who have no righteousness that will merit our entry into God's family nor into heaven, sincerely receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior; the perfect righteousness of Jesus is imputed into us. We are righteous only because of Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). God sees the righteousness of Jesus in us.

We can be sure that the Lord hears the righteous and that He does not hear from a distance. He is near. He will revive the hearts of the brokenhearted and crushed in spirit (**vv. 17-18**).

We may not see everything God sees, but knowing He loves us and that He sees what we cannot gives us enough reason to trust Him. Don't allow feelings to dictate our perspective.

**Promise #3: GOD WILL DELIVER AND REDEEM YOU. (vv.19-22)**

"**Deliver**" means to snatch away. "**Bones**" does not mean God's people will never have a broken bone. When God had the Israelites institutionalize the Passover, God gave instructions not to break any of its bones which may be the same to God's special intentional care over His people. However, several passages in

David's psalms actually prophesied about the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This (**vv. 19-20**) is one of them. We see its fulfillment in **John 19:33,36**.

Ultimately, God's promises find fulfillment in Jesus. It's true that Jesus' bones were not broken; but Jesus, the Righteous One, died. Where is the deliverance in that? Well, Jesus did not remain dead! He rose triumphantly after three days.

God's comforts us in **Isaiah 57:1-2** that if you are a follower of Jesus, when you die you are delivered from all of the world's tribulation and enter into an unimaginable peace.

"**Redeem**" means the payment of a price (ransom) to set someone free. We were hostages and slaves to sin. Jesus paid the full price for us to be free and to be children of God. Taking on an eternal perspective, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. He has set you free (**Romans 8:1-2**).

**ALL OF THESE PROMISES ARE FULFILLED IN JESUS!**

Promise #1: **God will provide all that is good for you** fulfilled in **John 3:16**.

Promise #2: **God sees you, hears you and is near to you** fulfilled in **Matthew 1:23**.

Promise #3: **God will deliver and redeem you** fulfilled in **John 19:30**.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. In what ways do you publicly declare or celebrate God's goodness?
2. Which of the three (3) promises of God do you need to hold on to in your life? During this pandemic? Why?
3. Has God delivered you out of a disappointing and hopeless situation? Share your story.

**WORKS**

**PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION**

Pray for people who are disappointed and feeling down in life. Care by being there for them and seeing them through, by hearing them out, or by just assuring them you are near. Share the wonderful promises of God fulfilled in Christ Jesus—that ultimate deliverance and redemption are made possible through Jesus Christ.

**WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS**

**I. Thanksgiving**

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

**II. Country and the World**

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

**III. Church**

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

**IV. CCF Facilities**

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

**V. Personal Concerns**

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends