

REALLY THE ONE WHO KNOWS THE LORD ...



(Psalm 34:1-22)

✓ **BLESSES THE LORD AT ALL TIMES AND PRAISES HIM CONTINUALLY FOR DELIVERING HIM FROM ALL HIS FEARS, 34:1-4.**

- (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.**

✓ **IS RADIANT WITH JOY BECAUSE THE LORD HAS SAVED HIM OUT OF ALL HIS TROUBLES, 34:5-7.**

- (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.**

✓ **KNOWS WITH CERTAINTY (TASTES) THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD AS HE FINDS REFUGE IN THE LORD, 34:8.**

- (Psalm 34:8 ESV) Oh, **taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!**
- (2 Samuel 22:31-33 ESV) This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; **he is a shield for all those who take**

refuge in him. 32 “For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? 33 **This God is my strong refuge** and has made my way blameless.”

- (Psalm 18:1-2 ESV) I love you, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, **in whom I take refuge,** my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- (Psalm 46:1 ESV) **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**
- (Psalm 62:5-7 ESV) For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. 6 **He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;** I shall not be shaken. 7 On God rests my salvation and my glory; **my mighty rock, my refuge is God.**
- (Proverbs 30:5 ESV) **Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.**

✓ **FEARS THE LORD AND LACKS NOTHING, 34:9-11.**

- (Psalm 34:9-11 ESV) 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. 11 Come, O children, **listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

✓ **LOVES LIFE AND TURNS AWAY FROM EVIL, 34:12-14.**

- (Psalm 34:12–14 ESV) **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.**

EXCURSUS—>TURNING AWAY FROM EVIL: The powerful relationship between the things we say (our speech) and the direction of our lives.

Excursus ... a detailed discussion or explanation of a subject; a digression that contains further exposition of some point or topic; a fuller treatment (in a separate section) of a particular part of the text.

Speech ... the act of speaking; communicating in spoken words, as in conversation; expressing thoughts, feelings, or perceptions by the articulation of words.

The justification for this excursus is ... to explore the importance of the correlation between the governing authority for our speech and the direction of our lives. The authority by which we live determines whether our life direction will be toward evil or good.

- (1 Peter 3:8–12 NIV) Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 **Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult.** On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, **“Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.** 11 They must **turn from evil** and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but **the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”**

1. The **attitude and practice** of the one who understands how to live a blessed life, 3:8-9.
2. The **crucial decision** of the one who understands how to love and enjoy life, 3:10.
3. The **reward** of the one who turns from evil and does good, 3:11-12.

Many lives come to ruin because they rebel against the authority of Scripture regarding their speech and do not heed the dire warnings on the misuse of the tongue. What is perceived to be a

God-given right is not God-given at all but only the rebellion of a sinful, deceived heart.

- (Proverbs 13:3 ESV) **Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.**
- (Ephesians 4:31 ESV) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor **and slander be put away from you**, along with all malice.
- (James 1:26 ESV) If anyone thinks he is religious **and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart**, this person’s religion is worthless.

The person who thinks he is religious but lives outside the authority of the word of God demonstrates that his religion is worthless.

- (James 3:6, 8b ESV) **And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness.** The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, **setting on fire the entire course of life**, and set on fire by hell. ... **It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**

The devastating potential of the tongue to change the entire course of our lives toward evil cannot be overstated.

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✓ **DOES WHAT IS RIGHT, 34:15-18.**

- (Psalm 34:15–18 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.

✓ **IS NOT CONDEMNED, 34:19-22.**

- (Psalm 34:19–22 ESV) **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.**
- (Romans 8:1 ESV) **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**