

# God is Present



## Psalm 34:17

*The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.*

Being present can be difficult with all of life's distractions. It's hard to stay focused, in the moment and present for who and what we want.

*Contrast that with the God of the Universe-our God, who knows all, sees all, is everywhere and in all time. He is all that and present with us (and everyone else) simultaneously! It's impossible to fathom let alone rely or truly trust it.*

*Yet it's true.*

Our God is always with us (as we explored last month), yet His presence also includes being present. There's a difference. Being present is a knowing, sensing and understanding that only God has for each of us. It's difficult to comprehend because we aren't capable of it as He is. His presence is with us and He is present with us. Always.

Let's explore this in Psalm 34, the words of David, a "man after God's own heart" as God describes him.

**Psalm 34 1-3**

I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. 2 I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. 3 Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together.

Praise Him first and at all times! Boast only in the Lord, not what we do but what *He* has done or we do *through* Him. Let's not speak of our greatness, but of His!

**Psalm 34:4-6**

I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.6 In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles.

God is always present, knowing, sensing and understanding exactly what we need when we pray. He hears and answers. We may not immediately know, understand or even like the answer, but He hears and responds. Are we listening and seeing the response?

**Psalm 34:7**

For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

God Himself and His angels are near us. Fear conveys the utmost respect and reverence. God's angels surround and defend us. When we hear about awful things in this world, it's tempting to think God's not present. He is, but so is evil and it's our job to trust in Him and walk in His ways. Instead of asking why, let's be His hands and feet in this world, to show others He's present.

**Psalm 34:8**

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

In any situation good or bad, God is our refuge-our haven, our safe place. Experience Him with all our senses-taste, see, hear, feel and smell how amazing our Lord is in this world. He expresses Himself in creation and all things. Let's not just see our problems, but how He is ever present in the world around us.

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**Psalm 34:9-11**

Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. 10 Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing. 11 Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the Lord.

Fear the Lord and He will provide. We are surrounded by good things, situations and people, are we seeing them?

Trust in *God.* He is  
*always present.*

**Psalm 34: 12-14**

Does anyone want to live a life that is long and prosperous? 13 Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! 14 Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

The first sin was based on lies and ever since, lies and evil from our tongues have contributed to sin in the world. Seek good and peace. It won't come easily in this sinful world, so we must work to find and maintain it. Our example can set the tone for others.

**Psalm 34:15-16**

The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. 16 But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the earth.

God wants our obedience, but even if we sin, we can cry out to Him-he's ever present. He will always hear and respond to our prayers for help. But God will not tolerate evil and will deal with it ultimately when Jesus returns, turning His face and presence away from those who do evil.

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## NOTES

### Psalm 34:17-20

17 The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. 19 The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time. 20 For the Lord protects the bones of the righteous; not one of them is broken!

Again, note the senses reference, God hears and is close (felt), and rescues us every time! Verse 20 is a reference to Jesus' bones not being broken when crucified.

### Psalm 34:21-22

Calamity will surely destroy the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished. 22 But the Lord will redeem those who serve him. No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

God redeems us and provides refuge when we need Him, even at the end of the world.

God gives refuge, frees, saves, listens, surrounds, defends, protects, rescues and is close to us. But we are not to just wait for Him to act. We are to praise, boast, tell of His greatness, pray, taste and see, take refuge, fear, trust, listen, avoid evil, do good, seek and maintain peace, cry out and serve Him with our lives.

He is present with us every step our lives as we live for Him. Let's follow Him as we sense His present presence and look forward to when we'll be in His presence forever in heaven!

The Lord is Close!