



STARTING POINT: DAY FIVE

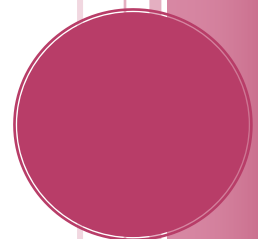
TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD

Psalm 34

Each day of this seven day Devotional Study we will read a specific passage three times with the intent to get the most out of it. We will ask questions and learn from the passage and finally apply the lessons learned personally to our own lives.

by pastor Adam Portal

Devotional For **FRIDAY** 1/12/2018



STARTING POINT: DAY FIVE

Psalm 34

1ST READING: LEARN. SIMPLY FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH THIS PASSAGE.

2ND READING: IMPRESS. NOTICE WHAT WORD OR PHRASE JUMPS OUT AT YOU OR MAKES THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION.

Psalm 34 English Standard Version (ESV)

Taste and See That the LORD Is Good

^[a] Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.

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| 34 | I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth. | 15 | The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous
and his ears toward their cry. |
| 2 | My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad. | 16 | The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to cut off the memory of them from the earth. |
| 3 | Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together! | 17 | When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears
and delivers them out of all their troubles. |
| 4 | I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears. | 18 | The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit. |
| 5 | Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed. | 19 | Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all. |
| 6 | This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles. | 20 | He keeps all his bones;
not one of them is broken. |
| 7 | The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them. | 21 | Affliction will slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be
condemned. |
| 8 | Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! | 22 | The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be
condemned. |
| 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. | | |
| 11 | 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. | | |

DEVOTIONAL: TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD

Ok then.... We have now been reading and learning together for 4 days straight. We have been in GENESIS which is part of the Pentateuch (the first 5 book of the Bible), in 1st JOHN in the New Testament, , in the historical/story telling book of 2 SAMUEL, and even in the prophetic book of ISAIAH, hearing God speak about How he works among men.

Now we turn to the Psalms, a masterful book that is really a collection of prayers or thoughts.

Things to notice:

1. A NEW STYLE OF WRITING

The book of the Psalms contains a new style of writing known as "poetic". Now we get to see and hear a song, a poem, a rap. These Psalms were written with music so they could be sung and easily remembered by all the people of God.

The Story Behind the Song Although we don't always get to know when and what inspired one of these songs, in our passage we are told directly. This song was birthed at the very moment when David had to act like a mad man before Abimilech, just to save himself. (REMEMBER: we read that story at YouthPOINT last Friday in **1 Samuel 21** - see your notes/outline from Friday.)

So the writer, David, wants us to know his muse (what inspired him) so that understanding what he is singing about, we can sing along with him, feeling the same things.

TAKE A MOMENT TO PLAYBACK THAT STORY IN YOUR MIND

2. GOD IS GOOD

The main TELL of David's psalm, the main thing that he learned and wants us to know, is that God is really, truly good. He is overflowing with the thoughts of God's goodness and can't keep from saying it all the time to everyone.

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

We should Sing this song together sometime (vs 3.) David is saying, Let us exalt the lord together. I want you to be here were I am. I want you to know what I have experienced with God. But, even more, I want you to experience it for yourself. He has been really good to me. Totally! David wants you to discover how really good He can be to you too.

God is good to Me (v6). David knows that God's hands were all over his life when he found himself running from Saul. *"This poor MAN"* is David. *"This poor man CRIED"* and the Lord heard his cry. God saved him from ALL of his troubles. From all of them. All I had to do is cry out to God, says David.

He is Just Too Good. Notice with me, says David, the protection of God is surrounding us, not perfect or sinless people, but people who eventually, fervently, and whole heartedly trust and fear the Lord. **God is so awesome that he was not waiting for me to be good, he was just waiting for me to cry out to him for help.** Fearing Him is so important, says David.

3. TASTE AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

It is not enough for you to know this. You must taste God for yourself. "Fear the Lord, you His saints" is a way of saying... Just do it!. Just trust in the Lord.

Trust and Fear work together: Getting on a Hover Board for the first time and trying to balance yourself is a little scary. It will have you fearful and trusting *at the same time*. But once you get balanced and moving you will soon discover how awesome and easy it really is.

God is like that. He is quite fearful, and trusting Him is scary most of the time. But once you figure out that he is always awesome, you begin to lose your unfounded fears and keep the good fears (Never get too confident on a Hover Board or it will throw you off.) You also begin to not trust the wrong things and trust the right one, God.

You have to taste God for yourself. You have to Fear God personally. You have to Trust God Personally. Every step of the way (or hover) will require both of these.

DONT MISS THIS IMPORTANT TRUTH: "Trust and Fear God personally." In whatever area you are failing, weak, uncertain, inadequate... Trust and Fear God!

I will teach you this fear. You can learn to fear the Lord right here and now. Be one of those who, like David says, "*who desires life.*" If you desire what is good, then he can teach you how to fear the Lord. Come and learn what it take.

Finally, LOOK AT WHAT THE LORD DOES

Fearing/Trusting the lord looks like "*Keeping your Tongue from evil*"(In Words) and "*Turning Away from Evil*"((In Deeds). Yeah, just "*Do Good.*" It is really that simple. Know good and do good.

The moment you see in yourself a desire or inclination to trust something else (Like David trying to get food and weapons from the Priest by lying, or David trying to find refuge in his enemies - the King of Gath - and of Goliath his sworn and defeated enemy) "*Turn Away*" from Evil. When you are on a Hover Board you have to constantly be on your toes, paying attention.

You Turn Away from evil and turn toward God. **What does the Lord Do?** Look at all the times, highlighted in green, that the Lord does something.

The Lord **Heard**, The Lord **encamps** around us who fear him, The Lord's **eyes** are upon us, The Lord **hears** us, The Lord is **near** to us, The Lord **delivers** us, The Lord **redeems** us. The Lord is everywhere and always on our side. FEAR HIM! TRUST HIM!

Before we finish. Note one more distinction with me. Just like Fear and trust are often found together, Deliver and Redeem are also. They are two separate parts of God's saving work.

To Deliver (vs 19) is the act of God rescuing us. It is part of what David experienced. God got him out of a jam many, many times. He does this with you and me also. He does this ALL the time.

To Redeem (vs 22) is to buy. After he rescues us from our troubles he sees us on the auction block and purchases us (see Hosea 3). He buys us and makes us His own possession. This means that once redeemed we belong to Him. He pays for us once and for all time, so we are never again *Condemned*.

So (1) know God is Good, (2) Taste and see it for yourself, and (3) learn to Turn from Evil, looking at what the Lord does and has done for you. HE IS AWESOME! The Lord is Good.

3RD AND FINAL READING: LIVE. READ THIS PASSAGE ONE FINAL TIME.

This time, focus on reading this for yourself. See yourself like David saw himself. See yourself as someone who has experienced God's goodness time and time again... Because you have.

Also recognize that there is still more to taste of God. Come close to Him as you read Psalm 34 this last time and let him increase your desire to taste more of Him and His goodness.

Every day of our lives we are hovering, miraculously protected by Him. He is there keeping you up even when you can't see it. BUT David wants you to SEE IT AND PRAISE GOD ALONGSIDE HIM AND ALL THE SAINTS EVERYWHERE who have seen that the Lord is Good.