**Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church - BIBLE STUDY 4/8**

**KNOW, BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE STUDIES**

**HELP IS ON THE WAY**

**PSALM 34:17-19**

Through David, we are reminded that as Christians our testimonies are not boring because they involve the action of God, the one **whose ears are turned to us**, the one **who has delivered our ancestors**, and the one **who is ready to deliver us if we are bold enough to ask and often times wait on Him**. And, we are reminded that when God does deliver us, we are to share that story so that our individual praise can become a **communal praise**.

Since God is the creator, He can handle any catastrophe or chaos that we go through.

**He has…**

**founded us,**

**formed us and**

**fixed us.**

 Because of these three truths…

I encourage you to incorporate His names into your times of need, anxiety and prayers.

* When you’re filled with anxiety, call out to *Jehovah Shalom*, the God of peace.
* When you’re in need of healing, reach out to *Jehovah Rapha*, the God who heals.
* When you wonder if God has left you, ask *Jehovah Shammah*, the Lord who is there
* When you need God’s provision, cry out to *Jehovah Jireh*, the God who provides.

**QUESTION: HOW IMPORTANT ARE KNOWING GOD’S NAME WHILE YOU’RE GOING THROUGH?**

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Psalm 34 is a testimony embedded in the narrative of scripture. David gives testimony of a time when he fled Saul, took refuge with the Philistines, and came to be afraid of King Achish, the king of Gath (1 Samuel 21:10-12)

Psalm 34:1–8, the psalmist first offers praise to God:

**I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD. (V1-2)**

Blessing and praising God are common themes for David. The word **“bless”** comes from the same root as the **Hebrew word “knee.”** Thus, to bless is literally “to bend the knee”—to kneel before a sovereign God.

The **words “praise” and “boast” come from the same Hebrew root word**, the word that occurs in the phrase **“hallelujah.”** Thus, **praise will be in the mouth** of psalmist; while the psalmist’s **inmost being (here translated as “soul”) finds its praise (“boasts”) in the Lord**.

-THE EXPRESSION … LOOK AT GOD

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The David then states the reasons for offering praise to God:

**I sought the LORD and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. (V4)  
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. (V6)**

Two more common themes of David occur in these verses. God **delivers (*natsal***) and **God saves (*yashah***).

The two verbs are similar in meaning, but carry slightly different nuances of meaning.

-*Natsal* (Hebrew)suggests a **“snatching away” or “pulling away.”** picture God plucking you out; deliver

-*Yashah* (Hebrew) means **“to take full care of” or “to help,”** suggesting that God enters the troubled situation of the psalmist and cares for the psalmist **in the midst of the trouble**.

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Finally, David to celebrates God’s deliverance and deliverance to come:

**O magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his name together. (V3)  
Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. (V5)  
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. (V7–8)**

The words of verse 8 are familiar words, but what does it mean to “taste and see” the goodness of the Lord?

-**“magnify”** means let’s **recognize our experiences with God together**.

- **“taste”** means **“to try something by experiencing it.”**

-Recall that in Genesis 1, after each creative act, **God “saw”** that it was good. And  at the end of the creation story, **God saw** that creation was not just good, but that it

 was **“very  good.”**

-We are encouraged to **experience God for ourselves** by opening our eyes and

 seeing  the goodness of God that is all around us.

-**Take refuge in God**—being protected, warm, and loved—can result in a deep, inner sense  of contentment.

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**Three assurances from these verses ...**

THE LORD HEARS

THE LORD IS CLOSE

THE LORD DELIVERS

**HELP IS ON THE WAY - PSALM 34:17-19**

**SERMONIC POINTS:**

**1 GOD HEARS OUR FAINTEST CRY**

**17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.**

-One of the advantages or benefits of being righteous, right standing, is the privilege of crying unto God, or of calling on His name, with the assurance that He will hear and deliver.

-GOD HEARS IN THE NAME YOU NEED

-GOD would not have sent His ONLY Son to die for us and then forget all about us.

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**QUESTION:  HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN JOHN 3:16-17 TO AN UNBELIEVER…WANTING TO BELIEVE?**

- People can achieve eternal life, not by their own merits, but by God's grace.

-God's love is not a conditional love, but a love that seeks to save and restore, not

 to punish or condemn.

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**2 THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL ALLOW BROKENNESS TO BUILD YOU**

**18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.**

-God is compassionate and **actively involved** in the lives of those who are suffering, offering

  solace and deliverance.

-**Trust Him even when you can’t trace Him**

-God’s heart is to restore us to wholeness.

-Seek Him while He is near.  This is an **intentional pursuit of His presence.** A burning desire

  to know Him — not just about Him. And **a willingness to submit to His will**. Calling upon

  God also requires that we prepare our hearts.

**God remains near the brokenhearted/contrite spirits:**

1. *He offers comfort.*

2. *He delivers us.*

3. *He walks us through suffering.*

4. *He remains faithful.*

*5. HE WANTS TO BE CLOSE TO YOU…BUT YOU HAVE TO WANT HIM.*

**2nd Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.**

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**3 DON’T LET FEAR BLOCK YOUR FUTURE**

**19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.**

-Remember First Lady’s scripture reading moment.  1, 2, 3, 4 afflictions and still counting.

-Righteous people will suffer many afflictions.

-Not just “some” but “many.”

-**Christ endured severe pain.** He was betrayed, beaten, mocked, and tortured as He faithfully walked out the will of the Father by dying on the cross. Sacrificially, once for all, God’s only Son made a way for us to escape the deathly consequences of sin in this world. If God’s Son suffered affliction, Christ-followers can expect nothing less.

**Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)**

**11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord,**

**thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

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