**Special Presentation**

Psalm 34:1-22

Michael Rush

April 26, 2024

 **Michael:** We’re being recorded this morning, so watch your language. *(Laughter)* How is everybody this morning?

 **Brave Men:** Good.

 **Michael:** Good, good, good, good. Why don’t we pray? Then we’ll get started. Let us bow our heads, please.

Dear heavenly Father, Lord, we come before You this morning thanking You and praising You first of all, Lord, for the blessing that You bestowed on us who believe on Your name, Lord—the gift of salvation. We thank You, Lord, that while we were yet sinners that You died for us, that You shed Your blood on the cross, Lord. And on the third day You rose again that we might walk in newness of life and to be born again and regenerated, any number of terms we use here, Lord. We’re just thankful, Lord, that You’ve brought us out of darkness into Your marvelous light.

 Lord, I thank You for the brethren here this morning. I ask that as the words of Your book go forth, Lord, that the brethren are edified, Lord, that knowledge goes forth, but more than that, Lord, that lives are changed continually, Lord, to be more like You. I ask that You would give Me the strength and the wisdom to go forth as You would have me to go, Lord. Remove me that You might be clearly seen, Lord. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

 **Brave Men:** Amen.

 **Michael:** Amen. So to start off I would like to say that Jordan last week, as he was coming out of Psalm 14, he taught seven verses out of Psalm 14 the last two weeks, and he rushed to get through the seven. I have twenty-two! *(Laughter)* So if I do my math, it’s somewhere between six and seven weeks. And that ain’t happenin’. *(Laughter)* But we’re gonna move through this.

 **Don Maurer:** Are we gonna Rush through this? *(Laughter)*

 **Michael:** We’re gonna Rush through this as only Michael Rush can move through this. Amen and Amen.

 I wanted to start off by saying this. So I have this book here, right? It’s called *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudham. Some of you might have this book; it’s a big book. It’s heavy; it’s got a lot of stuff in it.

 It has titles like these: Part 1 is “The Doctrine of the Word of God.” It has “The Word of God,” “The Canon of Scripture,” “The Four Characteristics of Scripture,” “The Inerrancy of Scripture”—good stuff, right?

 “The Doctrine of God”: “The Existence of God,” “The Knowability of God.” When you go down to Part 3 you have “The Creation of Man.” And you know the story, right? There is a place for systematic theology. But we’re not doing that today. *(Laughter)*

 All right, let me tell you why. I can remember when I first started coming to the Brave Men some double-digit years ago. I could only come on the Fridays when I was off because I worked. And I started work at 7:00 or 7:30. *(Unclear)* So I saw a lot of guys there. There was a bunch of guys who used to be there, right? Everybody was sitting there transfixed on Dr. Bruce Bickel, right?

 **Ted Wood:** Yeah.

 **Michael:** And I loved it, right? Wow! And then some of the guys started coming to the Bible study that Jay Batch and I did on Saturday mornings, right? And I was a little surprised because I don’t want to use the word *disappointed,* just kind of surprised. There weren’t a whole lot of guys who knew what was in here.

 **Transcriber’s Note:** Michael pounds his Bible.

 **Michael:** And so what I discovered was that even though people are sitting and listening. They’re not always with it. Now they knew Bruce’s acronyms. He’s got a lot of good acronyms, right?—things that help you to remember stuff. He had a lot of good stuff.

 And so it made me think: Why is that? So the man in another room, he was at a Bible study. I was thankful that everybody had their Bibles. I’ve seen Bible studies where there were no Bibles.

 The next thing is, what do we get out of our Bibles, right? The reason I bought *Systematic Theology* was because I’ve been around people who are very good. I mean, actually they’ve been trained at Bible schools and seminaries around this country who have been pastors, and they know this.

 **Transcriber’s Note:** The systematic theology book.

 **Michael:** But they don’t know what’s in here.

 **Transcriber’s Note:** The Bible.

 **Michael:** They know the principles. But they don’t actually know what Scripture says. And if you don’t read Scripture, it shouldn’t be the second thing; it should be the first thing. And then you can categorize it otherwise, right?

 So the second thing that I know is this: We are men here, right? We are football fans and rough guys, right? One thing that comes out of that which is going to be in a study like this and that is a little bit interesting is that David was a man after God’s own heart, right?

 **Brave Man:** Yeah.

 **Michael:** And what does that mean? Because when you read about him, sure he was a king, he was a warrior. He was also somebody that prayed and had an intimate relationship with God. And he even talks about how Jonathan, Saul’s son, loved him so much—they loved each other so much—that they kissed. Now we have to understand that’s cultural; I don’t want anybody doing that to me. *(Laughter)*

 **Brave Man:** Watch out!

 **Michael:** Yes, watch out, watch out. You know that John Gratner is a troublemaker; you guys probably know that. *(Laughter)*If you’ve been here long enough, you know why. But I love John because he is a guy who studies the word of God.

 **Don Maurer:** Amen.

 **Michael:** So as we go through this Psalm I’m going to make this interactive, because based on everything I just said I could give you a lot of facts and stuff like that, and there’s nothing wrong with that. But when I look around the room, everybody’s heads are big enough. You have enough knowledge, right? So we want to make this interactive so that we can understand what the heart of David was and what he was doing here in this Psalm 34 and why it’s even in the Book, okay?

 So why don’t we go there? Turn in your Bible to Psalm 34. I have an outline there. The first part has some little helpful things there. It’s called “David’s Intention: Praise”—verses 1-3. And if you remember before, if you were here, I did a teaching on the seven words of praise some time ago.

 **Ted:** Yes.

 **Michael:** Maybe about a year or so ago, or somewhere in there. And some of those words are in there. First of all, in the Hebrew this is an acrostic Psalm. And what that means is that the Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters; it has 22 verses. And the reason they used this is that each verse is a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. And it was done like that so that it would be easy to memorize and teach, okay?

 So that’s another thing. Scripture memorization is a good thing to do, right? Because if you hide His word in your heart the Bible says what? That you might not sin against Him. *(Unclear)*

 So let’s go. Verse 1 of Psalm 34:

*“I will bless the LORD at all times;*

*His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

*My soul makes its boast in the LORD;*

*Let the humble hear and be glad.*

*O magnify the LORD with me,*

*And let us exalt His name together.*

*I Sought the LORD and He answered me,*

*And delivered me from all my fears.*

*Those who look to Him are radiant,*

*And their faces shall never be ashamed.*

*This poor man cried and the LORD heard him,*

*And saved him out of all his troubles.*

*The Angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him,*

*And He delivers them.*

*O taste and see that the LORD is good;*

*Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.*

*O fear the LORD, you his saints,*

*For those who fear Him have no lack.*

*The young lions suffer in want and hunger,*

*But those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*

*Come, O you children; listen to me,*

*I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*

*What man is there who desires life*

*And loves many days, that he may see good?*

*Keep your tongue from evil,*

*And your lips from speaking deceit.*

*Turn away from evil and do good;*

*Seek peace and pursue it.*

*The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous,*

*And His ears toward their cry.*

*The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,*

*To cut off the memory of them from the earth.*

*When the righteous cry for help,*

*The LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,*

*And saves the crushed in spirit.*

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous,*

*But the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

*He keeps all His bones;*

*Not one of them is broken.*

*Affliction will slay the wicked,*

*And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.*

*The LORD redeems the lives of His servants;*

*None of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.”*

 **Transcriber’s Note:** ESV.

 Hallelujah, somebody! This is the word of the Lord.

 **Brave Men:** Thanks be to God.

 **Michael:** So if I break my glasses I’m going to be standing up here like this much of the time; you can have comic relief. So in some of your Bibles at the top, it tells you who this Psalm was written by. It’s written by David, right? And you know, David supposedly wrote about 73 of the Psalms, somewhere in there. This one says this. It says: *“A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior toward Abimilech so that he drove him away, drove him out, and he went away.”*

 So I’m going to open this up for some comments and questions. What do we know about David? Let’s have somebody start at the beginning of David’s life. What do we know about him?

 **Brave Man:** Shepherd boy.

 **Michael:** A shepherd boy, right? He’s a shepherd boy. And even before David came forward, when Saul fell out of favor and they were bringing Jesse’s sons, what was Eliab told? *“Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart,”* right? So with David’s brothers, “It’s got to be him, it’s got to be him, it’s got to be him.”

 “No, that’s not the one. Do you have any more sons?”

 “Well, there’s this shepherd boy, but it can’t be him,” and so forth. But it turned out to be him, right? And David turns out to be a pretty tough character, right? But before he threw the stone in the sling and slayed Goliath, we was who he was, because he says, *“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine to come against the armies of God?”,* right?

 So while everybody was fearful, David had this strong vision of who the Lord was, right? Now I want you to understand that they didn’t have the cross. They didn’t have Jesus; they didn’t know anything about that. They had Yahweh, as John Gratner continually pushes and pushes. But he’s right, because a lot of times we have to remember the t times that they were in. This was the people of God. They worshiped Yahweh, the one and only true God. There are a whole lot of gods that people worship, a lot of idols.

 We do it today. It was a little different back then, right? They didn’t have the distractions that we have, right? So they lived a very spiritual existence, and invisible or unseen gods were really prevalent. But we know there is only one Creator God, right? And that is who David worshiped.

 And so he had this strong vision. :I don’t care who this guy is—nine feet tall or whatever. He’s going against the armies of God and he cannot prevail.”

 And we don’t know what happened after that. So what ended up happening in Israel is what? These women started coming around dancing; he’s got them by the tail. And what do they end up saying?

 **Brave Man:** Saul killed his thousands.

 **Michael:** *“And David his ten thousands,”* right? And Saul gets really upset, right? So right from that point he goes on his quest to get rid of David, right? And not only that: David and Saul’s son Jonathan have this great relationship. And Jonathan has this covenant with David, and Saul is angry. And David is always ducking spears. *(Laughter)* They’re always being hurled at him, right?

 So in the midst of this David is a fugitive; he’s fleeing constantly from Saul. And at one point he actually goes back to Gad where Goliath was for refuge, right? And during this time, to hide himself he acts like a crazy man, right?’ he slobbers and such. The problem is that he’s recognized by two of Saul’s men, Doeg and Achish. And the names Achish and Abimilech are interchangeable here; you can look that up. Achish and Abimilech is the same person. Abimilech was a word that was used kind of like the Pharaoh was earlier in the Bible. *(Unclear)*

 So this is when David ends up in the cave of Adullam with multitudes of others. And this is where he wrote this Psalm, right? And the reason that he wrote this Psalm is because even though he was thrown out he wasn’t allowed to escape, because he was fearful that someone would discover who he was. So he writes this Psalm.

 Now I want to ask you: If you had just come out of a fearful place being a fugitive, and ending up in a cave, would you have had the wherewithal t4o praise the Lord for deliverance? It’s something to think about. I know that we live in a time where we complain constantly. We watch way too much of the news and we complain constantly.

 And I only say this because I always hear these things from a lot of brethren. And when we get into this Psalm verse by verse you’re going to see what I mean. So let’s try to read it again: verses 1-3.

 *“I will praise the LORD at all times;*

*His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”*

 Let’s start right there. What does David do there? He makes an intentional choice to praise the Lord, to bless the Lord. And as you see there on the paper that I gave you, how do you bless the Lord? Is there anybody who can tell me how you can bless the Lord today? Do you bless the Lord?

 **Brave Man:** Praise.

 **Michael:** Praise. Even at that fundamental level, how would that look? Is it a song? Is it—

 **Don Nemit:** Thanksgiving.

 **Michael:** So you would just give thanks verbally?

 **Don:** Yes.

 **Michael:** Okay. This one here is to kneel. So in that day and time they knelt. David was kneeling before the Lord. We don’t do that much here. If I do that you’re going to have to help me up. *(Laughter)* But it is something that was acceptable praise and common praise.

 I want you to picture that in your mind when we compare things to today and we look back to the way things were then. All right?

 And then it says,--and this is also an adoration,--*“His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”* Do any of you have any idea why he said that? It would continually be in his mouth. Why was that so important?

 **Chuck Mathe:** The circumstances he was in at that point.

 **Michael:** Okay. All right; that’s true. And the reason it was important is because there were times when David was doubting and he was fearful, right? He was fearful to the point of even using deception. So it’s the lack of trust and reliance on the power and the ability of God to deliver him out of his circumstances. Now I don’t want to heap it on David because I have my right hand up. Anybody else, put your hands up. This is an instruction.

 So we want to understand that David is writing this Psalm. And when he’s doing this there are people there; there are lots of people there. So why did he put this in Scripture? Why is he there in this cave? He says: *“My soul makes its boast in the LORD. Let the humble hear and be glad.”*

 Now when we think about boasting what do we think about? We always think of it in a negative connotation, right? About boasting the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8 and 9: “For you have been saved by grace through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest anyone should boast.” That has a negative connotation, right? God doesn’t want you boasting on your own salvation or your ability to save yourself; only God did it, right?

 Can you then boast in the Lord? One of the problems I have these days is that we get so caught up in the things of this world. It disturbs me from men of God. There are some things that are being abused today in the political arena. Whether or not you’re Democratic or Republican today, there aren’t any manners here.

 **Brave Man:** Amen.

 **Michael:** These are not for God. And we have far too much of that in churches today, the foolishness of this world. We can’t possibly have true humility before God when we have that foolishness.

 But here’s the thing: It speaks to your heart if that’s where you’re led, because in Christ praise should be coming out of your mouth, right? We’re praising the Lord. He’s able to make things right according to His wisdom and knowledge and counsel, amen? That’s what He does. We have the same God as David. He can take unregenerate souls and bring them into the light. Do you mean to tell me that God won’t do what’s right? It’s something to think about.

 So this is what David is doing, right? He’s remembering who God is because he’s been delivered so many times. And it hits him at this point when he’s writing this Psalm that He did it again. I don’t know why I doubt Him, because He continually brings me and delivers me out of trouble, right? Go ahead.

 **Don Maurer:** I can’t help but think of the similarity between David’s reaction and what happens in Acts 16 when Paul and his companions were in the Philippian jail.

 **Michael:** Mm-hmm.

 **Don:** And what do they do?

 **Michael:** They start praising.

 **Don:** They sing Psalms and hymns.

 **Michael:** That’s right.

 **Don:** It’s the same as when the apostles and the disciples in Acts 4 were told that “you must never speak in the name of Jesus again.” And yet they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ.

 **Michael:** Amen, amen.

 **John Gratner:** Do you ever wonder what Psalms and songs they sang? It’s interesting that you bring that up. With the praise of Yahweh always being in his mouth I would imagine that it was so fresh that they added a whole bunch of new contemporary Christian Jesus songs. *(Laughter)* After the Resurrection they were probably singing the same kinds of Psalms that speak of Yahweh’s faithfulness, and they were applying that to the Resurrection.

 **Michael:** Amen. Michael?

 **Mike Davis:** So when I look at this and when you’re talking about it I see that you mention Bruce Bickel. I think of “Think right, act right.” With the thinking I’m going to do this all day long; I’m thinking right. Your thinking is based on truth.

 **Michael:** That’s right.

 **Mike:** And then I memorize the truth. In the long run that impacts your actions; what you think impacts your actions.

 **Michael:** Amen, amen. Mike said a mouthful. You know, I can remember when I first came back to church almost thirty years ago. And when I grew up in the Baptist church it was my mother, my sister and me. We kind of sat in the pew. We sang songs and there was a preacher. And man, that stuff that was coming from the preacher was bouncing off of my head—boom, boom! Out of sight; I just wanted to go home and play.

 And when I came back to church there were people praising and people raising their hands. In the church I grew up in you didn’t see that much. People were raising their hands, and I remember that people were trying to hug me. If anybody saw the imprint of my hand on his chest I’d think: Whoa! What are you doing, dude? *(Laughter)* I never knew at some point the intention of raising my hands, because on the one hand I didn’t like raising my hands. Do you know what I’m saying? You don’t do things based on your feelings because feelings can be the opposite, right?

 **Don Nemit:** Amen.

 **Michael:** Now the Bible says that we raise our hands. So I started raising my hands, and it was the weirdest thing. It was almost like the Holy Spirit was saying, “Yes!” And it just became my practice.

 Now some people might say that’s phony or contrived, or whatever. But it’s being obedient. And it is reflecting who you are in Christ and giving Him adoration and praise, amen? So it’s one way we can do things. So *“His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”*

 *“My soul shall make its boast in the LORD.”* Let’s talk about this boasting in the Lord for a second. Do you boast in the Lord?

 I know people who do this. It was just yesterday that a guy who I hadn’t talked to in years approached me and said, “Pray for my marriage. My wife and I are having trouble and a lot of stuff is going on. He said that he started up at the gym and lost 25 pounds. The guys were looking at him and he had to leave. That’s not funny; I’m just saying what he said.

 So I said, “Where are you guys going to church?” He said that they started recently to go back to church, and duh-duh-duh-duh-duh.

 And I said, “Do you think she would be able to talk with you?” She and I always used to have a good rapport and she always listened to me.

 So yesterday he tested me and he said, “She said now that she wants a divorce.” So I said, “I’m sorry.” And he said that he was going to contact his lawyer today.

 And I said, “Don’t give up. Pray that the Lord gives you twice as much.”

 Now I don’t have any power to change his situation, and probably nor does he. But how would he know that the Lord is able to do it? Amen?

 **Brave Men:** Amen.

 **Michael:** Do you understand that? When you pray you have to have the confidence in God that He can do a lot for His saints, not only in your life but in the lives of every child of God, amen?

 **Brave Man:** Amen.

 **Michael:** The meaning of this Psalm is that I talked about the systematic theology, and the creeds that we all learn. They have their place; I’m not criticizing those. But the meaning of this Psalm is that David is writing this from an experiential standpoint, amen? And at some point we all have to be able to do that. We all need to have a testimony that helps people, amen?, because that’s what people are going to listen to.

 You know, we always want to put the Lord first; there’s no doubt about that, because the word of God cuts to the heart. We always want to remember that. Regardless of what we think, the word of God is *“powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword.”*

 But David is talking from experience. If you’ve ever talked to a saint who is on fire for the Lord, you might not believe what he says. But you know he does, amen?

 **Brave Man:** Amen.

 **Michael:** So you want to get into the habit of doing that.

*“O magnify the LORD with me,*

*And let us exalt His name together.”*

 As I said, he’s in a throng of many people. We want to magnify the Lord. How do we magnify the Lord? Anybody?

 **Brave Man:** To magnify means to make bigger.

 **Michael:** Mm-hmm; amen. Can we make the Lord any bigger?

 **Don Bishop:** No.

 **Michael:** Technically we can’t, right? He’s bigger than we can ever imagine.

 **Brave Man:** Essentially we can’t.

 **Michael:** Right.

 **Brave Man:** But we can magnify the Lord in terms of what we say about Him.

 **Michael:** Amen.

 **Brave Man:** In essence it’s the Lord being made big in us. It has to do with focus.

 **Michael:** Amen. Okay, we’re going to come back to that.

 **Don Maurer:** Worship; we’re talking about corporate worship here. *“Let us exalt His name together.”*

 **Michael:** Amen! $That part of the verse is the corporate part, and there’s power in that, amen? There’s power in that.

 **Ron Baling:** I was going to say that you can magnify the Lord in your way.

 **Michael:** Mm-hmm.

 **Ron:** You can be constant in praise.

 **Michael:** Now that’s what he means by focus.

 **David Miller:** I just wanted to say that we have all these things that we look at and focus on, and all the things that are happening. But no matter what is happening, God is sovereign.

 **Michael:** Amen, amen. So there is this saying apparently attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: *“Preach the gospel, and if necessary use words.”*

 **Brave Man:** Yes.

 **Michael:** A dumb statement.

 **David:** Really dumb.

 **Michael:** It’s dumb and it’s not true. Let me tell you something. People say that the way to show that you are a Christian is to show them your life. And then they’ll say, “Oh, let me follow Jesus!” No! Enough of that! How will they know that you serve Him unless you share Him with your lips? You had better magnify Him with your lips. You had better proclaim Him with your mouth. You had better have something good to say about Him out of His word. In a gathering like this, if some who are not saints come in, we had better do that together, amen? We magnify Him together! Amen?

 I remember when I first met Don over here. Dom used to come to my small group many, many moons ago. And Don was a dude, and when he came to the door he just magnified the Lord to no end, still to this day. And that’s a beautiful thing, that’s a beautiful thing.

 So let us get into the habit. It’s what David is telling the people there., the listeners. This is what he would do.

 All right: the next part. It’s David seeking the Lord in this Psalm: *“I sought the LORD and He answered me.”* And this is what He did: *“He delivered me out of all my fears.”*

 This is interesting because he sought the Lord. It was an intentional act, right? Part of what we heard from Jordan last week is that no one seeks after God, right? So how can David seek after God?

 David sought the Lord; we have to understand the context, right? First of all we know that the unregenerate person can’t seek after God because he’s not going to; he’s not able to, right? But in this particular case David already had a relationship with the Lord; he was seeking Him eagerly.

 Do we seek after the Lord, or do we seek other things? I know there have been times in my life when I needed to be seeking the Lord and I didn’t know anything about Him. And that always got me into trouble.

 So he sought the Lord, and He answered him. We may not always know how that happens, right? We see that the answer is bigger than anything around his person. And he deliberately finds Saul; he’s a fugitive from Saul. Even after this cave experience Saul does not pursue him, because the Lord delivered him from all his fears. So that’s the beauty of this Psalm.

 Jesus said, “In this life you will have troubles. But be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world.”

 **Don Nemit:** Amen.

 ? **Michael:** Life has ups and downs and incredible situations. But we have the confidence in the Lord that He can deliver us from our fears, and then we can be less fearful, right? It says that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of a sound mind.

 So He delivered him from his fears. This is David magnifying the Lord and proclaiming Him in His true essence.

*“Those who look on Him are radiant,*

*And their faces shall never be ashamed.*

*This poor man cried and the LORD heard him,*

*And saved him out of all his troubles.*

*The Angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him,*

*And delivers him.”*

 Now we know that the Angel of the Lord were to show up right now, the Bible says that we would be *“sore afraid,”* and that would be awesome. Angels in general are pretty awesome. When people encounter angels their response is fear, not “Okay. Yeah, all right.”

 But in this day and time, angels were delivering people just about everywhere you looked. We go to books like this and we use terms like *theophany, Christophany,* and things like that. This Angel of the Lord, the Angel who showed up, right? And so they had an understanding of who He was when He showed up on the scene, right? It was an Angel of God.

 And we have to be in a mindset today. Though those things don’t happen today, don’t always go along with everything happening in the past. You know that if you have a relationship with the Lord—and I see lots of you or some of you,--y our should have some experiences that an unbeliever would not have. God is still working. He’s still doing miracles; He still does miraculous things. Isn’t that right, Ted? We have a couple stories.

 **Ted:** Can I just quickly go back?

 **Michael:** Yes.

 **Ted:** *“He delivered me from all my fears.”* I just looked up the Hebrew word for that. This word only appears three times in the whole Old Testament, which is really interesting. And it’s a word that translates as :storehouse.” *Twice in the Psalms and in Isaiah it’s translated “fears,”* and in Malachi it’s translated “storehouse” or “granary.”

 **Michael:** Mm-hmm.

 **Ted:** I was thinking about this. Why don’t we say, *“I sought the LORD and He answered me, and delivered me from all my storehouses?”* Think about that. How does that make any sense?

 **Gary Craig:** Maybe he’s talking about the baggage you carry.

 **Ted:** “I sought the LORD, and He delivered me from all my strengths, where I have my resources.” I’m thinking about buying a car now. I need that car. I’m looking to my resources. I spend a lot of time looking at my bank account. How much money can be moved around? I’m anxious about buying that car. And what I’m doing is, I’m looking at my granaries, my storehouses, for the solution to my anxiety. I’m sorry—

 **Michael:** No, no.

 **Ted:** But that’s amazing.

 **Michael:** Yes?

 **Don Nemit:** Ted is talking about focus. It’s one of my favorite words that I’ve been using. And so when you’re talking about looking at your resources—and they’re not yours; they’re given to you,--but God says, “I can use them, but you’d better trust Me,” because if you’re focused and you’re not looking at all the distractions, and you focus on the Lord—Jesus, Yahweh, it’s the same thing—the Holy Spirit, you turn Him loose.

 **Michael:** Mm-hmm.

 **Don:** And when you take this situation and you pray about it, the Lord says, “This is how you’re going to do it.” And He will clear your path. You worked in the power industry, right? That’s something that really fascinates me, because there is a power generation—that’s God!—and He comes down through us. And where does it go back to? It goes back to God.

 **Michael:** Mm-hmm.

 **Don:** It’s a circuit. And so if you disconnect those circuits what do you have? Nothing. But when you connect it altogether, focusing on the Lord, on Jesus Christ, then you have power to hang on.

 **Michael:** Amen, amen. Thank you, Don. Let’s move on to the next section. Boy, time goes fast! The next section is God’s goodness.

*“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good.*

*Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.*

*O fear the LORD, you His saints,*

*For those who fear Him have no lack.*

*The young lions suffer want and hunger,*

*But those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.”*

 This is powerful: David hiding in a cave and saying, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” He was rejoicing in God and he knew this. First of all it shows how faithful he was to pray like this after he was delivered out of the hands of the Philistines.

 There are these situations in our lives. First of all we ought to praise the Lord. The Scripture talks about what torment we are in, amen? In Luke 16 when He mentions the rich man and Lazarus the beggar, it says that the rich man opened his eyes, being in torment. So we can see that in this passage.

 Bathe tells Abraham to send Lazarus over some water so he can cool his tongue. Now think about that. What kind of state do you have to be in? I just need a cold drop of water to cool my tongue. And we don’t normally think about stuff like that.

 So we need to be thankful that God brought us out of that situation, #1. #2: If we read our Bibles and see things that are ahead, we can praise Him. David is thankful. He says: “Taste and see that the Lord is good,” and he is being delivered from the Philistines, right? How much more with us having our souls delivered should we be praising Him! “Taste and see that the Lord is good!” I don’t think we do that enough.

 **Don Maurer:** I agree with you. I’ve often thought about this verse and Psalm 37, where it says that “I was young and now I am old—“

 **Michael:** “And I’ve never seen the righteous forsaken.”

 **Don:** “I’ve never seen the righteous begging for bread.”

 **Michael:** Right.

 **Don:** And I think: But what about all the people in the world who are being persecuted for their faith and are starving and in torment? What about them?

 **Michael:** Yes.

 **Don:** But then this comes to mind, what you said about being thankful to the Lord for giving us eternal life.

 **Michael:** Yes.

 **Don:** Even with what Tab went through. She obviously didn’t go through a picnic.

 **Michael:** Right.

 **Don:** And so we can thank the Lord that He delivered us from hell, and He takes us all the way even through hard times.

 **Michael:** Right.

 **John:** Michael?

 **Michael:** Yes, John.

 **John:** We continue to use this language here which is a fine thing to do, because I think that at least largely we know qwhat we mean by that.

 **Michael:** Mm-hmm.

 **John:** If we would tell anybody this morning that we were at this group and we were talking about the Lord, and that God is good to us, that doesn’t necessarily mean anything to anybody else. And I think it’s noteworthy that in these 22 verses David calls the almighty Creator God by name.

 **Michael:** That’s right.

 **John:** Not by title. There is a title in here too.

 **Michael:** Yes, that’s right.

 **John:** But more importantly by name.

 **Michael:** Yes.

 **John:** And so when we interact with people, we’re going to do what He is saying to do here. The name of Jesus, defined as who that is: the almighty Creator God who upholds all things by the word of His power, who made you and loves you. That’s who I’m talking about. And that could change your world. And knowing Him is eternal life. And that will either get you turned away, shunned, persecuted, whatever—or there’s power in the specificity. David wasn’t talking about concepts. He wasn’t talking about something he knew. He was communing with the Person of the Almighty whom he was trusting in physically. “I’ve seen the Angel; He has been with me. He is encamping with us now. I don’t have anything in my storehouse; we’re in a cave! Yahweh is with me.” Over and over and over and over again, if we’re going to do these things we have to say that. The New Testament, other than Jesus, leaves us with titles and categories that have become so nebulous that no one knows what we’re talking about.

 **Michael:** Amen, amen. 100%, John; thank you. So here we are at 7:26. I’ve gotten through eleven verses. But here’s the deal: I’ve given you an outline. Maybe we’ll come back to it on the back end, I’m sure. Jeff may be coming back soon; we don’t know when.

 But the bottom line is this. I’ve given you an outline. Study this Psalm: 34, verses 1-11. And also read 1 Samuel. Read the story of David up to this point.

 Context is important. A lot of times we read the Psalms and we read them kind of like hanging in the middle of dead air. But there is a context to them a lot of times that we can trace back to other parts of Scripture, which is why I went through David’s running from Saul, because that’s the context in which this Psalm was written. We know it well’ some of the words we know better than others.

 It’s almost 7:30 and I value your time. But I want to say this. As men we like to be on teams—baseball, basketball,--or clubs—golf clubs, fraternities, and things like that. We as men are very proud of this; I belong to this group or that group, right?

 But we’re reticent to do that as being in the Lord. I stand in front of the congregation every week. And I watch guys who are so open with their exuberance for the Lord. But I know that the Scripture shows a lot of emotional guys. That doesn’t mean sissified; we know that. But there is a masculinity in praising God in spirit and in truth; there is a masculinity in doing it, right? We can boast in the Lord who made heaven and earth.

 **Brave Man:** The Scripture calls Him “awful.”

 **Michael:** That’s right. Some translations say “terrible,” as opposed to “awesome.” The Psalmist was speechless. But praise the Lord. Like David, make the conscious, intentional choice to wrestle, to praise the Lord. There is nothing sissified about it.

 The Bible says to be filled with the Holy Spirit. How do we do that? Well the Bible tells us: *“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, making melodies in your heart.”* There are things you can do.

 All the world is looking at us. And we know God is amazing; we understand that. But we do a disservice to our country and to the church and to Jesus Christ by focusing on things that aren’t in our storehouse.

 **Don Nemit:** Amen.

 **Michael:** We have the Lord, and we need to focus on Him. His word is enough. And it is good that we can get together and magnify the Lord. I’m just a guy who is standing up here teaching. But we need to get together day in and day out; it needs to be our practice and our intention. I’m done. Praise the Lord.

 **David:** Praise the Lord. Amen. *(Applause)*