

The LORD is Near
Psalm 34:7-18

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I. The LORD God protects His children. *Psalm 34:7*

Whenever scripture uses the term, "**The Angel of the LORD**" instead of "**an**" angel of the LORD, there is a _____.

- David had an invisible, all-powerful, always-present, protector who camped out around him so that David was _____.

David demonstrated _____ in God, as he was in the cave hiding from Saul and his men. David reassured his men that the LORD Himself was going to encamp around them and _____ them.

II. Taste and see. *Psalm 34:8-10*

"Taste, i.e. consider it seriously, and thoroughly, and affectionately; make trial of it by your own and others' _____." (Poole)

- The word "**desire**" in the Septuagint Bible is a very strong word describing man's _____ longing for the LORD. **1 Peter 2:2-3**

When we trust and revere the LORD, He will provide all we need, and we will not have to _____ anything or anybody else. **Matthew 6:33**

III. The LORD resists evil people. *Psalm 34:11-16*

*"As David describes the **fear of the LORD**, it is rooted in action, not religious _____. The fear of the Lord is doing right, that is, that it involves obedience."* (Boice)

- Serving the Lord has trials and hardships, but ultimately, we find joy, peace, and _____ in life by living for Him.

*"The verb, **resists**" vividly pictures God as one who places Himself in _____ array against such individuals."* (Hiebert) **1 Peter 5:5-6**

IV. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted. *Psalm 34:17-18*

The LORD is _____ of the pain that arises from our experiences. He is always available and close to those who suffer, and not surprised or disappointed with His broken saints.

- The enemy would love to keep us from experiencing the LORD's deep love for us, which provides us with peace and strength to endure times of _____.

V. Practical Application.

Believers are not _____ from suffering, but we have the promise that our Good Shepherd walks with us through them.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Psalm 34:7**. Under what circumstances did King David write this **Psalm**? How did that circumstance affect what David was trying to communicate?

1 Samuel 21:10-22:2

2. As we learned, the Angel of the Lord is an appearance of the pre-incarnate Jesus. What comfort does it give you personally knowing that the Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him?

2 Kings 19:32-35, Genesis 16:1-13, John 6:46, John 8:58, Psalm 147:5-7, Psalm 24:8-10

3. Read **Psalm 34:8-10**. What does it mean to **taste and see that the Lord is good**?

Psalm 37:4-5, 1 Peter 2:2-3, Matthew 6:33

4. Read **Psalm 34:11-16**. Discuss the different things David taught within these verses (the things he said to do and the things he said not to do).

James 1:22, John 10:10, James 4:11, Psalm 56:8-9

5. In what ways does the LORD resist evil people?

1 Peter 5:5-6

6. Read **Psalm 34:17-18**. Discuss how the Lord is aware of our pain and trials and how He comforts His children.

2 Corinthians 1:3, Psalm 23:4, Psalm 119:50, Isaiah 41:10, Romans 8:26-28

7. Read **Isaiah 40:28-31** and discuss the five observations from the Practical Application of the sermon.

1. God Sees Us in Our Pain
2. God Welcomes Our Hard Emotions
3. God is Our Help in the Valley
4. God is Compassionate to Us
5. Jesus Experienced Our Pain