

Prayer Requests

- Harvest's worship, evangelism, discipleship, elders, teachers, parents; officer training and election
- Remodeling the new building
- The church around the world, the PCA, our Presbytery, our children, our visitors, our community, our country, the world.
- National morality, universities, mainline churches, seminaries
- Celestin's work and family
- MTW, SAT-7, MERF, ITEM, Gideons, Gospel for Asia, and other world mission works
- The persecuted church and the church in troubled areas: Iraq, Zimbabwe, Georgia, Israel, Iran, Russia, Congo, India, China, North Korea, etc.
- Wilma Nibbelink – making improvement every day, rehabbing at Indian Hills
- The Van Essendelft family – praise for Levi's healthy birth, prayer for Rebecca's recovery and the family's adjustment
- Carla Van Essendelft (sister-in-law) – pregnant, (has had three consecutive miscarriages)
- Alethea Fedders' brother, Brad – home, recovering from car wreck, shattered tibia
- Adam and Kim Doughan – expecting, end of June
- Robin—God's grace, mercy, and peace for everyone involved
- Gary Vander Plaats's dissertation – ready to defend!
- The Rowenhorst Family—Randy's falls increasing, subsequent injuries
- Jonathan Vander Plaats –in Africa on mercy mission
- Marlo and Darlene in Arizona
- Ron De Groot – looking for work, physical and spiritual progress, Christian friends

Harvest Community Church

at Prayer

the midweek meeting, 25 Mar 2009

Devotional

Psalm 34:1-10

Singing

Psalm 34:1-10

PRAYER

Doxology

Psalm 34:1-10 (ESV)

¹Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.

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

²My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

³Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

⁹Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

¹⁰The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

vv1-3 call for our praise to God to be (a) made in every circumstance, (b) continually expressed verbally, (c) real confidence in and enjoyment of Him from the depths of our being (my 'soul' makes its 'boast'), (d) disjointed from any shred of pride in myself, (e) an ascribing of greatness to Him, (f) a corporate raising of his name ("God is so excellent, His mercies are so marvelous, the work of His praise so enlivening, and any praise rendered by one falls so far short of what God deserves, that if a good man could, he would enlist the universe of creatures in aid of the worship he offers"—Plumer)

vv4-7 teach us to testify to others of Yahweh's goodness to us. As you look at the psalm, Yahweh Himself is its great subject. Only v5 fails to mention Him by name. The history in 1Sam 21:10-15 makes no mention of Him, but David is quite clear here as to the heavenly reality behind the earthly situation. Let us be similarly clear about the heavenly reality behind our own earthly situations! Some clues about our manner in doing this:

(a) Don't talk about what you did, but about what God did (v4)

(b) Do it with a radiant face; invite others to have the same radiance (v5)

(c) Emphasize your weakness and the Lord's complete faithfulness (v6)

(d) Remind them that this reality belongs to all believers (v7) ... in 2Ki 6:16-17, Elisha's confidence in the fact of the surrounding army may have been based upon Ps 34:7 alone. The angel of Yahweh is Christ!

vv8-10 call for others to experience what David has in v1: *regardless of situation*, bless Yahweh! The command to taste includes the promise that they will see. The command to fear includes a promise that they will not lack, and backs it up with an interpretation in v10. Young lions are those who feel no need or want, but they trust in their strength and circumstance. Their perceived security is false, whereas even in the most difficult circumstances the believer's perceived lack is also false: we lack no good thing!

On fearing the Lord... "There is nothing more unfriendly to true piety than its degenerating into irreverence and familiarity with God. Fear gone, all solemnity vanishes, and love becomes fondness... how dare any teach that the fear of God is not an essential part of true piety, when it is so often spoken of as if it were *the whole* of godliness (v7, 9, 11)?" — Plumer, pp424-425.

Psalm 34:1-10



- 1 At all times I will bless the LORD;
I'll praise him with my voice.
- 2 Because I glory in the LORD,
let troubled souls rejoice.
- 3 Together let us praise the LORD;
exalt his name with me.
- 4 I sought the LORD; his answer came:
from fears he set me free.
- 5 They look to him and shine with joy;
they are not put to shame.
- 6 This suffering man cried to the LORD;
from him deliverance came.
- 7 The angel of the LORD surrounds
and guards continually
All those who fear and honour him;
he sets his people free.
- 8 Come, taste and see—the LORD is good;
who trusts in him is blessed.
- 9 O fear the LORD, you saints; with need
you will not be oppressed.
- 10 Young lions may grow weak and faint
and hunger for their food,
But those who wait upon the LORD
will not lack any good.