

KEYS TO HAPPINESS

Psalm 34

Introduction: Being a Christian is not a "way or form" of life - IT IS LIFE ITSELF! Being a Christian is not a burden - IT IS A DELIGHT. There are times when we find ourselves wavering and feeling discouraged as has every Child of God. Remember the writer of all the Psalms had his ups and downs, and often he would cry out to God for help. We are no stronger nor any better than was David, the Psalmist. His experience in life and with God can give to us some "Keys to Happiness" in the Lord.

1. (vv1-3) - God's Children are encouraged to praise and glorify the name of God.

- The many acts of God's mercy should fill our hearts daily and should furnish a theme of praise and gratitude.
- Each day is marked with monuments of the mercy of God - just look for them.

2. (vv4-7) - Benefits God's Children enjoy:

- Answered prayers
- Freedom from fears (not troubles, burdens, trials, however).
- Relief from oppression.
- God will aid all His Children, whether rich, poor, healthy, sick, male, female, whatever race.
- God protects and rescues His Children from danger.

3. (vv8-10) - God is Good!

1. We are told to "try God" for ourselves, don't take somebody else's word, know for ourselves.
2. God's Children are safe and happy.
3. God's Children lack nothing good because God provides for them.
4. God's Children have a "fearful" respect for Him.

4. (vv11-14) - Keys to Happiness and a Long, Enjoyable Life:

1. Fear (respect) the Lord.
2. Keep oneself from speaking evil.
3. Do not lie.
4. Refuse to do evil but do good instead.
5. Desire to have peace and do your best to have it.
6. Life is happiness and happiness comes from enjoying God's favor. His eyes are always upon us, we are the object of His love and care. He has His ears open to our prayers. He is infinitely powerful, wise, and good, always ready to supply our needs. THIS IS LIFE, THIS IS HAPPINESS.

5. (vv15-18) - God is Compassionate Toward His Own.

1. God hears our cries of despair.
2. God will revenge/avenge evil done to His own.
3. God answers our calls for help and rescues us.
4. The Lord is always near to the discouraged.
5. The Lord lifts up those who have lost hope.
6. We have trials as well as joys, but we are not forsaken. God promises to cheer us, to comfort us, and we may boldly enter His presence in time of need, at any time.

6. (vv19-21) - The Lord Will Help the Troubled.

1. God will save us from our troubles.
2. God will completely preserve His own.
3. God will punish those who do evil against His own.
4. We are weak and sinful, but God deals with us as with children. Chastisement leads to prayer and prayer to increased faith and faith to more love, patience and humility.

7. God's Great Purpose:

1. *"...Those who go to the Lord shall be saved and protected..."*
2. *"...Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved..."*
3. *"...Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life..."*

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian, want a better, happier life? Try these "Keys to Happiness."
2. God wants only the best for His Children but true to the saying, "Children are children" and we behave just like children even as adults, therefore we get in trouble, don't have what we could have and get what we don't really want, need, or deserve.
3. Let's learn how to let God be our Father and let's try to be His Children and let Him have His way in our lives.