



David was going through some very trying times when he wrote Psalm 34. His situation was dangerous, and he had many legitimate fears (v. 4). He refers to various troubles he faced (vs. 6,17). He also had many afflictions, being squeezed and pressed in on every side because of his enemies (vs. 19-20). The LORD was able to save and deliver His servant from all of these things, and He can do the same for us today in the midst of all of our problems and difficulties. When God’s people look to Him in times of trouble and distress, God will do something very special: “They looked unto Him, **and were lightened**: and their faces were not ashamed” (v. 5).

What does it mean to be lightened? Webster’s 1828 Dictionary says that this verb means “to dissipate darkness, to fill with light.” He also cites the usage of this word in Psalm 34:5 saying, “to free from trouble and fill with joy.” God can enlighten and brighten those who trust in Him.

The Hebrew verb means “to flow, to stream, to shine, beam, be radiant.” Water flows in a river, and light flows from the sun. So God’s light and God’s joy flows to His servants who fix their eyes on “the Sun of righteousness” (Mal. 4:2). People who are looking intently to the LORD reflect the joy of His presence. They become cheerful; their faces brighten up and shine and become radiant.

The faithful martyr Stephen was a good example of this in his greatest trial. Fixing his eyes steadfastly upon the Lord, the audience saw that his face was transfigured. He was truly “**lightened**” (Acts 6:15; 7:55-60). Those who look to the Lord of glory in this way will never be ashamed and never be disappointed.

God is our light and salvation (Psalm 27:1)!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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