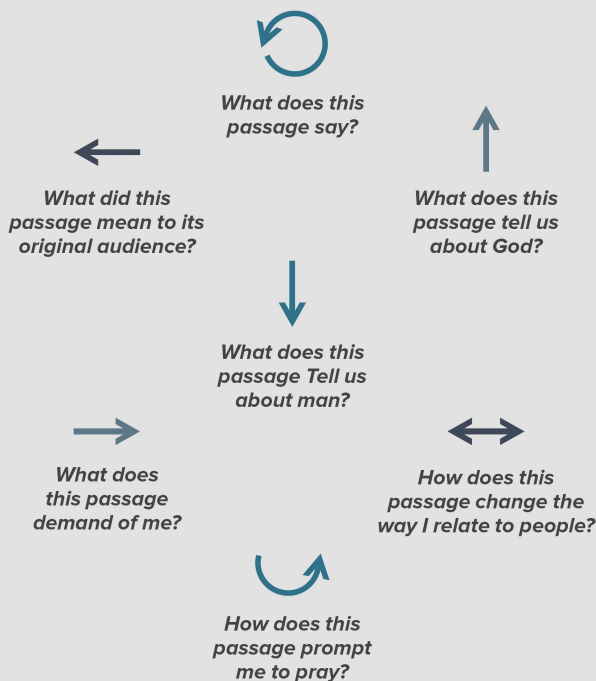


DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One PSALM 34:15

There are times in our lives when we will face difficult circumstances. There may even be times when we feel all alone and like no one understands. For God's people who have devoted ourselves to living for Christ, no matter what we go through, we can know that God is with us. That the Lord's eyes are on His people means that He is watching over us. He's continually listening to our prayers, and when we ask Him for help, He's happy to respond. God is our Father, and He loves us even more than we can imagine. When His children face hardships, He's watching and listening and will provide what we need.

➤ **How does it make you feel to know the Lord continually has His eyes on you?**

➤ **When have you cried out to God and you knew that He was listening?**

Day Two

PSALM 34:16



Some people have this issue that even without saying a word, their face says it all. (You know who I'm talking about. It may even be you!) This is the spirit of this verse. The Bible often speaks of God's face in terms of His expressing displeasure or anger against those who oppose His ways or His people. When others seek to do Christians harm, God is not only angry, but He puts action to His emotions. God protects His people, and those who oppose God will be punished for their rebellion.

➤ **When has your face said more than you intended to communicate?**

➤ **Why does God not just overlook evil?**

Day Three

PSALM 34:17

When we face problems in our lives, our first response is often to try and fix things ourselves. Another tendency for a lot of people is to complain to anyone who will listen when we're not able to make things better immediately. Complaining is one of the worst things we could do—this never makes anything better. The efforts to bring improvements ourselves is appropriate. However, there's an ever better way to respond to trouble. The psalmist instructs us to cry out to God. Immediately! When a young child is scared or in trouble, their first response is to cry out. When a teen crashes the family car, the first call is to their parents, or at least it should be. When we find ourselves in over our heads, our immediate response should be to cry out to God. He will rescue us!

➤ **When have you called on your parents—or someone else—because you were in trouble?**

➤ **How natural is it for you to cry out to God?**

Day Four

PSALM 34:18a

God understands that we will face suffering. For one, we live in a world that is broken by the curse of sin. All around us people are struggling with all kinds of challenges. In any given city or town, there are people dealing with the challenges of brokenness in their families. There are people struggling financially. They may not have the food they need, or they may worry about paying their rent. There are students in your school who struggle socially—maybe they feel lonely, or others treat them unkindly. Everyone faces struggles, and some are overwhelming at any given time. For God's people, when we are brokenhearted about our circumstances or relationships, we can know that God is near. No matter what we face, God loves us, and He has promised to be with us through it all.

➤ **Who do you know who is brokenhearted? How can you encourage them?**

➤ **When has God ministered to you during a particularly difficult time?**

Day Five

PSALM 34:18b



A crushed spirit doesn't necessarily sound like a good thing. However, for us to be saved, we have to experience this. Psalm 51:17 teaches that the sacrifices that God desires are a broken spirit and a humble heart. We are saved from death when we confess our sins and choose to live in repentance. This means we agree with God about what is right and wrong, and we choose to change the ways we live because we are brokenhearted about the ways we've offended God. We turn from sin and turn to God. When we are brokenhearted, particularly in regard to the sin in our lives, God will rescue us.

➤ **In your own words, what does it take to be saved?**

➤ **How would you describe repentance?**