

## **Chapter 13**

### **Praise And Fear The Lord**

I read a quiz that asked, "How well do you know your mate?" If you could answer all the questions correctly, that meant you knew your mate really well. If you could only answer ten correctly, I guess that meant you had some work to do.

Some of the questions were tricky for me. For instance, "What is his favorite color?" The answer to that is: it depends. If you ask Chuck, he'll say, "Well, it depends. If I'm looking at the sky, I like blue. If I'm eating pudding, I don't want blue pudding." It's hard to nail him down.

"What is his favorite food?" It's hard to nail Chuck down on that one too. Others weren't so hard. "What is his favorite song? Where would he like to travel if he could go anywhere in the world?"

But then they got a little tougher. "What living man does he admire most? What's his favorite time of the day?" I had never even thought to ask Chuck that before. And then there was, "What does he like best about you?" And right after that one, "What does he dislike about you?"

I know a lady whose husband dislikes her laugh—actually, he hates her laugh because it is so loud. For years he'd make little comments about it and she'd just ignore him. But then finally he couldn't take it anymore and he told her in some pretty strong terms that he could not stand her laugh.

I want to know what Chuck dislikes—but not really. I really don't want to know. I don't want him to dislike anything about me at all. To find out would be painful.

#### **Know God**

If someone were to ask you what pleases God, would you have an answer? Could you tell that person what displeases God? The real question is, how well do you know God? Knowing God is critical if you want to live a life that is pleasing to Him. In fact, it's very difficult to please someone you don't know very well.

In this chapter, we're going to learn how we can know God through His Word. We're going to study Psalm 34 to find out what it teaches about pleasing God.

- I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together (Psalm 34:1-3).

What is the first thing we learn about pleasing the heart of God from these verses? What are we supposed to do? We're to praise Him! I love when we can have that freedom of the Spirit and we can rejoice in the Lord with abandonment. One of my greatest fears is that we will lose the spirit of worship. It's easy to let our minds wander when we're singing. Our lips sing, "I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice," but our minds are way out in

the fields someplace. God wants us to focus on Him and praise Him with freedom. If you feel like lifting your hands as a sign of love and surrender, do it.

- I will bless the Lord at all times.

When do we praise Him? At all times and continually! *The Living Bible* says, "I will praise the Lord no matter what happens."

- My soul shall make its boast in the Lord.

This is a good reminder that we're not to boast in ourselves or in other people, but only in the Lord.

- The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

The Hebrew word translated here as "humble" means discouraged and afflicted. When the discouraged and afflicted person hears you praising God and thanking Him, it will lift their heart. I don't mean you're supposed to run around saying, "Glory, glory, glory! Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the Lord!" No! You're to praise Him specifically for the wondrous things He has done.

We once met a woman at the Maui airport. We didn't know her, but she heard Chuck's big, hearty laugh from two counters over and came over to say hello. She recognized his voice from hearing his radio program in Seattle. And as we stood talking, she said, "I have to share with you what

happened yesterday." She said she had been at the beach all day and had lost her diamond wedding ring. She didn't realize it for three hours, but when she did, she decided to go back to the beach and look for it anyway.

Well, even as she stood there telling us the story, I thought, *Three* hours? I've lost car keys on the beach, never to see them again. To go look for something as tiny as a wedding ring, forget it.

But as she continued her story she said, "I prayed all the way to the beach, and when we got there, we looked around for a minute, and then all of a sudden, I saw something bright and glistening in the sand. I thought, *No way*. But it was! It was my ring."

And then she said something so beautiful. She said, "My husband gave me that ring the first time, but God gave it to me the second time. And every time I look at it, I'll be praising Him."

Now, I'm telling you that story because those are the specific deeds we need to be sharing with people. Instead of just running around yelling, "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" why not praise Him specifically for the many wonderful things He does?

When people hear those kinds of praises, their faith is increased and their wonder of God grows tremendously. As your soul boasts in the Lord, that discouraged person will say, "Hey, if He did that for her, He can do it for me!"

## Magnify God

The humble shall hear of it and be... glad (Psalm 34:2).

What? Glad! What are discouraged and afflicted people like? They're down. They're disheartened. Their countenance is sad. The thoughts in their minds are depressing, and oh, how Satan loves to put a spirit of depression on us. But when you talk to someone who has the joy of the Lord flowing through her and she's praising Him and giving thanks for what He's done, what happens to you? Your spirit is uplifted.

Let your boast be in the Lord. *The Living Bible* says, "I will boast of all His kindness to me" (Psalm 34:2).

Psalm 103 speaks about God crowning us with His lovingkindness and tender mercies. What does a crown denote? It means authority and kingship. When God puts a crown of His tender mercies and lovingkindness upon you, you can face the world with authority and confidence.

- O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together (Psalm 34:3).

I have loved the times when I've exalted the Lord together with my friends, thanking Him beforehand for the things we know He's going to do for us at a retreat, or just praising Him for all the wonderful things He's done for us in the past. He is so worthy of our praises.

- I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing (Psalm 34:4-10).

We please God by trusting Him. If you mark your Bible like I do, you could put brackets around verses 1-3 and write, "Pleasing God by praising Him," then put brackets around verses 4-10 and write, "Pleasing God by trusting Him." Some people think it's terrible to write in your Bible and others think it's wonderful. I love my Bible, and if the Lord inspires me with something, I put it right next to that verse. Chuck does that too. I have hearts, arrows, exclamation marks, and all kinds of things written in there. Sometimes I'll just write, "Wow!" I'll often write the date beside a note, especially when God gives me something to help me through a trial. Often I'll see a note from long ago and think, *Oh, boy. June 14, 1977. That was a wowie of a day, but God met me and He did such and such...* and I remember how He gave me that particular verse and how I stood on the authority of His Word and watched His deliverance come to pass. What a blessing!

## Faith Replaces Fear

I sought the Lord and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears (Psalm 34:4).

Fear is the opposite of faith. It is basically unbelief. When you are filled with fear, you're saying you do not believe God. Reading the newspaper or watching the evening news can fill us with fear. I think if you can get through an issue of *Time Magazine* without asking the Lord to remove your fear, you're doing pretty well.

David wrote this psalm after he fled from Abimelech. While hiding in the territory of the Philistines, he was terrified that Abimelech would capture and kill him. So do you know what David did? He drooled and carried on and acted crazy in front of the king. Not the most regal behavior from the man whom God had anointed to be king over Israel, is it?

David writes that he sought the Lord and was delivered from all his fears after his crazy behavior. Why he didn't do it beforehand, I don't know. But don't we often do a lot of crazy things before we remember to seek the Lord? By the time we turn to God, we are praying from a point of fear rather than from a place of trust.

I remember several years ago being down on my knees praying about a situation, and I began by saying, "Oh Lord, would You ..." and before I could go any further, I stopped and realized I was filled with fear. I was afraid God wasn't going to move in my situation. The Holy Spirit began to impress on my mind that I needed to trust God instead of praying all tensed and bottled up and scared. So I released it to the Lord. I said,

"Lord, I trust You. I trust Your hand in this. Thank You for taking my fear. Thank You that what You promised in Your Word You will do." Be sure you're not praying from that point of fear. If you feel fear in your heart, ask God to replace it with trust.

One of our retreat speakers, Ramona Jenson, gave a beautiful definition of unbelief. She said, "Unbelief is the darkroom where we develop our negatives." And how are negatives destroyed? With light! When the light of the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the truth comes in, the negatives are destroyed. If you're in the darkroom today, filled with fear, that isn't God's plan for you. Trust Him and watch your fears vanish.

- They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed (Psalm 34:5).

I love how *The Living Bible* phrases verses 4 and 5:

- For I cried to Him and He answered me! He freed me from all my fears. Others too were radiant at what He did for them. Theirs was no downcast look of rejection!

Again, your trust or your fear will have an effect on the people around you. Years ago while traveling home from Israel, someone made a bomb threat against our group. We didn't know it until we were in the airport in Copenhagen. We were instructed to go through security, but not told that it was due to a bomb threat. When news came of the threat, a woman came to me and said, "You are in a very dangerous position." One hundred-and-

fifty people were going through security at that moment, and not one of them knew why. As soon as the woman informed me, I immediately went to prayer. Afterwards, when everyone found out, people said to me, "You knew, but you didn't show it. You looked so happy." I was able to look happy because I was happy. God gave me peace, and helped me to trust Him. Fear is contagious, and like chickenpox, it spreads fast. If I had looked or acted fearful, others would have been fearful too.

### **Cry Out to God**

This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles (Psalm 34:6).

David was not poor in material things. He was poor in spirit. He was down, he was brokenhearted, and he cried unto the Lord. God heard him and saved him out of *all* his troubles. That's a good word to underline in your Bible. God saves you out of all your troubles. Now, that doesn't mean that if you're in a very difficult marriage, when you go home tonight, God will have your suitcases packed, a new home, a new husband, and a new life waiting for you. That's not the way He does it. Instead, He gives you the peace, strength, grace, wisdom, and faith to walk through the fire and come out the other side unharmed.

Look again at verses 4 and 6. Note that in verse 4 David said, "I sought the LORD," and in verse 6 he said, "This poor man cried." David showed a deliberate, earnest seeking of God. It pleases God when we seek Him from the very bottom of our heart, when we say, "God, if You don't deliver me, there is no hope! Come, Lord, and deliver me!" He will. He will deliver you

out of all your troubles.

- The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them (Psalm 34:7).

This is a verse that has comforted me many, many times. I recommend that you memorize it. Just knowing that God has put His angels around you can be the difference between being terrified and being at peace.

Many years ago, Chuck left for a trip that would have him gone for several days. Cheryl and Brian were going on the trip too, and all the rest of our children were grown, so I was going to be alone in the house.

Before they left, Cheryl said, "Mom, you ought to get the machete out." We'd been given a machete during a ministry trip to Guatemala. I just laughed when she said it, but that night, just before bed, I heard her words again. "You ought to get the machete out." And I thought, *What if the Lord put that thought in my mind?* So I got the machete out and I put it right by my bed. That doesn't sound too brave, does it? I really wasn't afraid, but I didn't want to be foolish. Maybe it was the Lord.

I went right to sleep without any trouble Sunday night and then again on Monday night, because before bedtime I reminded myself, "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and He delivers them."

Tuesday night, I went right to sleep. But around midnight I awoke to see that the hallway light was on. I knew I hadn't left it on. I thought,

*Somebody's in the house.* Chuck wasn't due back until the following night, and everybody else was gone. I thought, *Maybe Greg and Janette dropped by for a visit.* But it was midnight! Who would come by for a visit at midnight? So I started praying. "Oh Lord, You've got to do something!" Then I thought, *Is it time for the machete?*

About that time I heard the front door open and close and I thought, *This is it, Kay!* In my bravest voice, I yelled, "Who is it?"

This big voice answered back, "It's me!" It was Chuck!

*But right away, I thought, That can't be Chuck. Chuck's not due home until tomorrow. That's not Chuck! That's not his voice! I know his voice—and that's not him! So I said, "Who?"*

He said again, "It's me!"

And then I knew it was him. I was so relieved. He had come home a night early. Interestingly, he told me that the last thing Cheryl said as he got out of the motorhome was, "Dad, be careful of that machete!"

I'll tell you, I used to be a woman who could not have stayed home alone. I had the most horrifying nightmares as a child. I would wake up screaming and my dad used to run in the room with a crowbar, thinking somebody must be in my room. My bedroom had French windows, and my parents had to put all kinds of locks on them for me. I still had horrible nightmares even after Chuck and I were married. The first few years, I used to dig my

nails into Chuck's arms when I'd wake him up and scare the life out of him. Finally, I realized through a Scripture just like this that there was fear someplace deep inside me. I knew that God could deliver me, so I asked Him to—and He did. I praise Him for it! "He gives His beloved sleep" (Psalm 127:2).

When the Word tells us, "The angel of the LORD encamps all around us," this is not talking about floaty, little creatures with flapping white wings. God's angels are mighty. Remember what Elisha's servant saw when he prayed that his spiritual eyes would be opened? The Word tells us, "The LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kings 6:17). As Elisha said in verse 16, "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." This is true for you and for me. God has placed His chariots of fire all around to protect us.

A. W. Tozer wrote that two types of people dwell on the earth: those who live in a world inhabited by spiritual beings, who walk and talk with God and whose prayers God answers; and those who live in a material world full of cars and planes—a world where they walk with their feet solidly on the ground. <sup>19</sup>We each choose which world we want to live in. I want to be one who endures "as seeing Him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:27). When things get hard, I want to remind myself that I'm a pilgrim and a stranger in this world. My citizenship is elsewhere.

The word "encamps" literally means that the angel of the Lord "pitches his tent" around you. Isn't that a reassuring thought? In these dark days, these

last days, God wants you to know that.

**Taste and See**

Oh taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8).

One of the hardest things in the world is trying to get a baby to taste something they don't want to taste. Chuck would get so frustrated when he had something really yummy on the tip of his spoon and he'd offer it to one of the children and they wouldn't take it. They'd shake their heads and tighten their lips as if he was offering them green beans. And Chuck would say, "Just try it! It's good! Take just one taste!" That's what the Lord is saying to you today. "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him." *The Amplified Bible* says, "Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him" (Psalm 34:8). Try trusting in God and see how it blesses your life.

We met a girl from Colorado when we were in En Gedi. Standing there together, we struck up a conversation and I asked her why she had decided to visit Israel.

"Oh, I suppose I'm just seeking truth," she said.

"Well, do you believe there's a God?" I asked.

She said, "I'm seeking to know."

So I said, "Ask Him to reveal Himself to you. He will." When we parted she

said she would. I walked away thinking, *Oh, taste and see*. I pray that she did.

**Respect God**

Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing (Psalm 34:9-10).

The kind of fear spoken in verse 4 is a terrorizing fear. But the fear in verse 9 is completely different. As defined by commentaries, it is profound reverence, awe, honor and respect. My own definition of the "fear of the Lord" is recognition of Who and what He is. It's an acknowledgment that He has the right to your life—you're His servant and He can do whatever He wants.

In an age where refinement and manners have been shoved aside, one tragic result is a terrible disrespect of God. With that disrespect has also come a dishonoring of His holiness and a casual attitude towards sin. But Proverbs 8:13 says, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil." Proverbs 16:6 says, "by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil." If you are walking in deliberate sin today, you do not have the fear of God in your heart and you cannot claim Psalm 34:7. That verse clearly applies only to those who fear the Lord.

Does it grieve your heart when you sin? Praise God! It should hurt you badly to grieve the One Who loves you so dearly that He gave His Son to die on a cross for you. His fear must be in your heart if you are to hate evil

and depart from it. You cannot please God and love sin. You just can't.

Joy Dawson shares about women who come to her and confess that they are involved in an affair. They say, "Oh, pray for me! I'm just so bound. Pray for my release." So she would pray and then they would be released. But after a couple of months, they'd be back. "I'm in bondage again! It's a new person—will you pray for me?" Joy said she finally got to a place where she said to them, "I will not pray for you anymore. You have a love for that sin or you wouldn't keep repeating it. You have to pray that God will give you a hatred for that sin."

If you keep committing the same sin over and over, don't say, "Oh, I'm so weak. I don't know how I got into this." That is a lie from Satan. You love the sin. You do not have the fear of God in your heart that would make you hate that sin. God will give you a hatred for that sin if you ask Him, because He is faithful. But you must ask Him.

I am personally fed up with hearing of that sin in the body of Christ. The chief characteristic of God is holiness. What do the seraphim and the cherubim sing around the throne? "Holy, holy, holy." And our holy God is coming for a holy bride.

First John 1:6 reads, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." What does it mean to walk in darkness? It's like trying to walk through a pitch-black room—you bump into things. You get a lot of bumps and bruises trying to walk without the light of His guidance—injuries that you wouldn't have gotten if

you'd walked in the light. We lose that light when we break fellowship.

Sin breaks fellowship with God. The results are both tragic and plentiful. One of the first results of broken fellowship is the loss of joy. You can't have real joy apart from fellowship with the Father.

Wise judgment is also lost. The person who has lost the fear of God and a hatred of sin will twist or misquote Scripture or will just stop talking about God or the things of God altogether. Oh, how much lesser our lives are when we lose the fear of the Lord!

- Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11).

I cannot stand it when people refer to God as "the Man upstairs," or "the Guy in the sky." That's so irreverent! Can you imagine approaching the Creator of the universe, the One Who sits on the sapphire throne, the One who created you and Who blesses you continually, and greeting Him so glibly and carelessly?

We come to the throne of grace boldly, but not rashly. We enter His presence with deep love and with the utmost reverence. Only those ignorant of His true beauty and majesty could refer to Him as "the Man upstairs."

### **Keep Your Lips from Evil**

Continuing in Psalm 34, David lists three specific things we are to do.



- Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit (Psalm 34:13).

The fear of the Lord begins with our mouth and our tongue. If you have the fear of the Lord when you start to say something you shouldn't, you'll feel a nudge. The Holy Spirit will say, "That doesn't please Me. Don't say that." We can be so careless with our tongues. Many times while in a group of friends some juicy bit of information has come into my mind, and I've started to say, "Oh, did you hear..." and before I can go any further, the Holy Spirit will say, "No, Kay."

*And I'll think, Oh, but I want to tell it!*

But then I hear, "If you have My fear in your heart and you want to please Me, you won't tell it."

So I stop and I say, "I can't tell it."

Then of course everyone says, "What?!"

The Lord is teaching me now not to say even the first few words, "Oh, did you hear..." He wants to stop me before I even say that much, so that my dear friends don't have to suffer through their curiosity.

Keep your tongue from evil. We all know bad things about people. Everybody does. But don't speak it. Gossip hurts so terribly. Even if it's

said carelessly or meant humorously, it can still wound deeply.

Obviously, if we are keeping our lips from evil, we are watching what we say. We're not swearing, we're not saying ugly things about a situation, we're not being negative, and we're not programming fear into others. Ask the Lord to help you be sensitive to how you use your tongue. Say, "Lord, would You just tap me on the shoulder any time I speak evil?"

- ...and your lips from speaking deceit (Psalm 34:13).

Some versions use the word "guile" in place of "deceit." In Psalm 32:1-2, David said, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit." The woman who keeps her lips from speaking deceit is a happy, blessed woman.

I read something once that said you could tell if someone is feeling hostile toward you because they'll give you a compliment with a barb in it. A long time ago I went to a convention with a suitcase full of old clothes. We didn't have money to buy new clothes, so I just brought the same clothes I'd been wearing for several years. A woman came up to me and said, "I really like that dress. I liked it last year when you wore it too." At the time I didn't recognize that she was being hostile toward me. I just knew I had a wounded spirit. Be sure there's no guile in you, or deceit.

- Depart from evil and do good... (Psalm 34:14).

God will show you what "departing from evil" means to you. Some things are obvious and apply to all believers, but others are individual. When God puts a searchlight on our lives, our hearts are often broken. But that's a wonderful thing if it leads to repentance.

A man who was saved at Calvary Chapel began sharing Jesus with his wife. After a time, she also decided to accept the Lord. He told her, "Now you must ask God for forgiveness of sin and you must repent."

The woman, who was in her early forties, said, "I honestly don't have anything to repent. I've lived a very good life." But he persisted and told her she just needed to pray and ask God to show her what she needed to repent. She did, and when she told me the story later, she said, "I wept for three days." Isn't that beautiful? Some of us would probably have to repent a lot longer than three days.

Are you courageous enough to ask God to put His searchlight on your life? I urge you to ask Him. Let Him show you those things you need to depart from. Then repent and do good! It isn't enough to stop doing evil—we need to start doing good. Like most mothers, mine had all kinds of platitudes and little sayings. One of her favorites was, "Idle hands are the Devil's playground." She was so worried about that, in fact, she kept my days filled with chores and piano practice.

Do whatever God would have you to do. Just ask Him! He is so inventive, there's no end to the things He can come up with. He'll have you say a kind word to one person, or write a note to another. He'll have you make a call

to brighten someone's day. He'll have you pray for another, or bake a cake to bring to someone else.

### **Pursue Peace**

Seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14b).

When I read that verse, I can't help but remember back to one time, years ago, when picketers lined the front of our church property. They had taken issue with something Chuck taught out of the Bible—and they had all these awful signs that read, "Blind leaders of the blind," and "Chuck is a wolf in sheep's clothing," and other horrible things. We had to drive past those picketers every time we went to church. I'd see those signs and I would just become enraged.

Chuck and I drove in one Tuesday night for church, along with Cheryl and Kristyn, who was a baby at the time. As we came down the street, there they were. I became furious all over again. I knew I had to pray. So when Chuck got out of the car, I turned it around and drove it up to the entry where they were all walking back and forth with those awful signs. Cheryl and I sat there and prayed and prayed and prayed. And then I rolled down my window to say something to them, and one of the Charles Manson look-alikes called me "honey!" So I rolled the window up and we went back to praying.

My spirit was so troubled over that. I thought, *How dare they do this? How dare they hinder people who are coming to worship God?* But as I was praying, God brought to mind this very verse: "Seek peace and pursue

it."

The more I meditated on that verse, the more peaceful I felt. In fact, God brought me to such a peaceful place that the next time we drove by the picketers and I read those awful signs, I was able to smile along with Chuck. I had confidence that God would take care of it.

When people do hurtful, aggravating things, our natural instinct is to defend ourselves or set them straight. But that usually just causes everything to escalate. Instead, we want to bring peace into the situation. One translation of this verse says, "Work at it." It can be work to bring peace to a situation, but it's what God would have us do.

Read the rest of this psalm and think about these beautiful promises.

- The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned (Psalms 34:15-22).

As you've read through this chapter, it's likely that the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you about something specific. Maybe you're not trusting Him. Maybe you're having trouble controlling your tongue. Maybe there's a great deal of strife in your relationships, and you haven't been working to pursue peace. Or maybe there is a persistent sin that you truly don't want to let go. God wants to free you. Be honest before Him and confess whatever He's shown you. Great blessings await those who fear Him. Let Him bring you to that place of praise, that place of godly fear.

*Father, a battle is being waged over Your bride. I pray for all those who have lost their reverence for You. I pray for those who have an issue with gossip. I ask, Lord, that You would free those who feel trapped by an immoral sin and who do not want to give up their love of it. Deliver her, Lord. Give her hatred for that sin. Show her that You are ready to cleanse her and make her new.*

*I pray for those with fearful hearts this day. Would You open their eyes to see Your chariots of fire all around them? Help them to know that You reign! Remind them that You hear their cry and see their poverty of spirit, and that You want to deliver them out of all their troubles if they will just partake of that trust. We love You, Lord, and we praise You for Your faithfulness, Your goodness, and Your grace. Teach us how to please You with the life You've given us.*

*In Jesus' precious name we pray, amen.*