

Psalm 34:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

This acrostic psalm opens with a vow of continual praise rooted in God's deliverance (context: 1 Samuel 21:10-15). The phrase 'at all times' (Hebrew 'be-kol-eth') emphasizes unwavering praise regardless of circumstances, not just in prosperity. 'Continually' (tamid) conveys perpetual, uninterrupted worship. David's commitment to vocal praise ('in my mouth') demonstrates that worship is both an internal disposition and external expression. This verse embodies Paul's later command to 'rejoice always' (1 Thessalonians 5:16) and the pattern of heavenly worship (Revelation 4:8).

Historical Context

The superscription references David's feigned madness before Achish (Abimelech is an alternate name or title). Despite the humiliating circumstances, David committed to praise, demonstrating that worship transcends favorable conditions. This psalm was likely used in Israel's thanksgiving rituals.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What circumstances tempt you to withhold praise from God, and how might you cultivate 'at all times' worship?
2. How does your public expression of praise match your private devotion?

Interlinear Text

תְּהִלָּת וְ

בְּכָל עַת מִידָּה

אָבְרָכָה הָיָה אֶת

יְהָוָה אֱלֹהִים אֲבָרְכָה

I will bless the LORD shall continually his praise

H1288 H853 H3605 H6256 H8548 H8416

בְּפִי

be in my mouth

H6310

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (Parallel theme): In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Colossians 3:17 (References Lord): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Ephesians 5:20 (References Lord): Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Psalms 71:8 (Resurrection): Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (References Lord): But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Acts 16:25 (Resurrection): And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Psalms 71:6 (Resurrection): By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.

Proverbs 29:25 (References Lord): The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (Parallel theme): We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

Acts 5:41 (Parallel theme): And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.