

## The Lord is Close to the Broken-hearted: Two Promises from God

In Psalm 34 David exhorts the reader to fear the Lord. That fear is not the destructive fear associated with abusive experiences; rather it is the fear that sets you free. It is the recognition that God is indeed who He says he is and that we stand before Him justly condemned and yet this is the wonderful promise: He saves those who are 'crushed in spirit', those who cry out to Jesus to set them free from this condemnation: '...no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him'. In verse 18, the truth of the gospel is therefore revealed. We need only cry out and He will hear us and save us as we are 'crushed in spirit'; recognising, that is, our dependency upon God for mercy. And then, once saved, the same verse 18 becomes ever more glorious. For the broken hearted believer, he is close. He is 'attentive to their cry' and 'he delivers them from all their troubles'. For the unbeliever reading this, God is making you a promise: come to him with a contrite heart, trusting in Christ's actions in history, and you will be saved. Perhaps abuse has broken you mentally, even physically and there seems no way forward. Take this promise to God in prayer. He does not lie. Let him set you free and then hold on to the promise for the believer: that he is close, He is attentive to your cries. You are not alone.