I have had the privilege of meeting some wonderful Christians down through the years. I have especially enjoyed those who have a deep and intimate walk with the Lord Jesus. As I have gotten to know them, I have been impressed with the peace and joy which is part of their daily lives. The amazing thing is that most of the time they were going through, or had gone through, extremely difficult times physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Yet no matter what they were going through, they had a sense of God's goodness and wanted to show others what an amazing Savior we have.

Let's look again at these verses in Psalm 34:

**Psalms 34:7-10** (NIV) The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. [8] Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. [9] Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. [10] The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

To FEAR the Lord means to genuinely worship, and trust Him in all things. Do we trust Him? Or are we always trying to make things happen on our own? To FEAR the Lord means to Trust Him and Take Refuge in Him even when everything looks dark and bleak. If we will trust Him we will see His goodness. If we FEAR the Lord then we will ...lack nothing... and right there our selfishness jumps in. We want God to be a Santa Clause God who gives us all the goodies we think we need. What does this verse mean?

Life Application Bible Notes: "...all those who call upon God in their need will be answered, some times in unexpected ways. Remember, God knows what we need, and our deepest needs are spiritual. Many Christians, even though they face unbearable poverty and hardship, still have enough spiritual nourishment to live for God. David was saying that to have God is to have all you really need. GOD IS ENOUGH. If you feel you don't have everything you need, ask: (1) Is this really a need? (2) Is this really good for me? (3) Is this the best time for me to have what I desire? Even if you answer yes to all three questions, God may allow you to go without to help you grow more dependent on him. He may want you to learn that you need him more than you need to achieve your immediate desires."

**PRAYER:** Lord, help me to taste and see that YOU are GOOD. Help me to TRUST You no matter what the situation is and no matter what my physical needs may be. Please help me to live with a constant sense that YOU ARE ALL I NEED. Help this not to just be words, but a growing conviction which focuses everything in my life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (Phillips) Tell those who are rich in this present world not to be contemptuous of others, and not to rest the weight of their confidence on the transitory power of wealth but on the living God, who generously gives us everything for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in kindly actions, to be ready to give to others and to sympathize with those in distress. Their security should be invested in the life to come so that they may be sure of holding a share in the life which is permanent.

Pastor Mark Kieft