A black and white photograph of a person crouching in a dark, stone-lined tunnel. The person is silhouetted against a bright light at the end of the tunnel. The text is overlaid on the bright area.

Psalm 34

Elements Class

April 24th 10:45am

(1-2) I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.



2 times in the opening stanza David says that he will **extol** and **praise** the Lord.



Synonyms in the Hebrew are:
To kneel down, to thank, to boast, to
praise, song of praise...



2 times in the opening stanza David says that he will worship at **all times** or **continually, without ceasing.**



Synonyms in the Hebrew are:

Always, constantly, regular, perpetual,
continuously, all, lifelong, lifetime, ever.



Application:

God wants us to be continually exalting his name & to be constantly thanking him & adoring him for who he is & what he has done.

(3) Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!



Again, **twice in one verse** David calls others to **magnify** and **exalt** the Lord.



These words give the idea of:
To make great, highly valued, to display,
to lift up, to place high above.



Twice over David calls the people to
worship the Lord **together**.
(with me, together)



Application:

God wants us to have a high view/high value of Himself. He wants us to uplift His worth with other believers in corporate worship.

In verse 2 David says:
*My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.*



Implication:

The longing (void) of the human soul will be met (filled) when true worship of our Maker occurs. And true, real, lasting gladness (joy) will result when we lift Him high in our hearts, mind & soul.

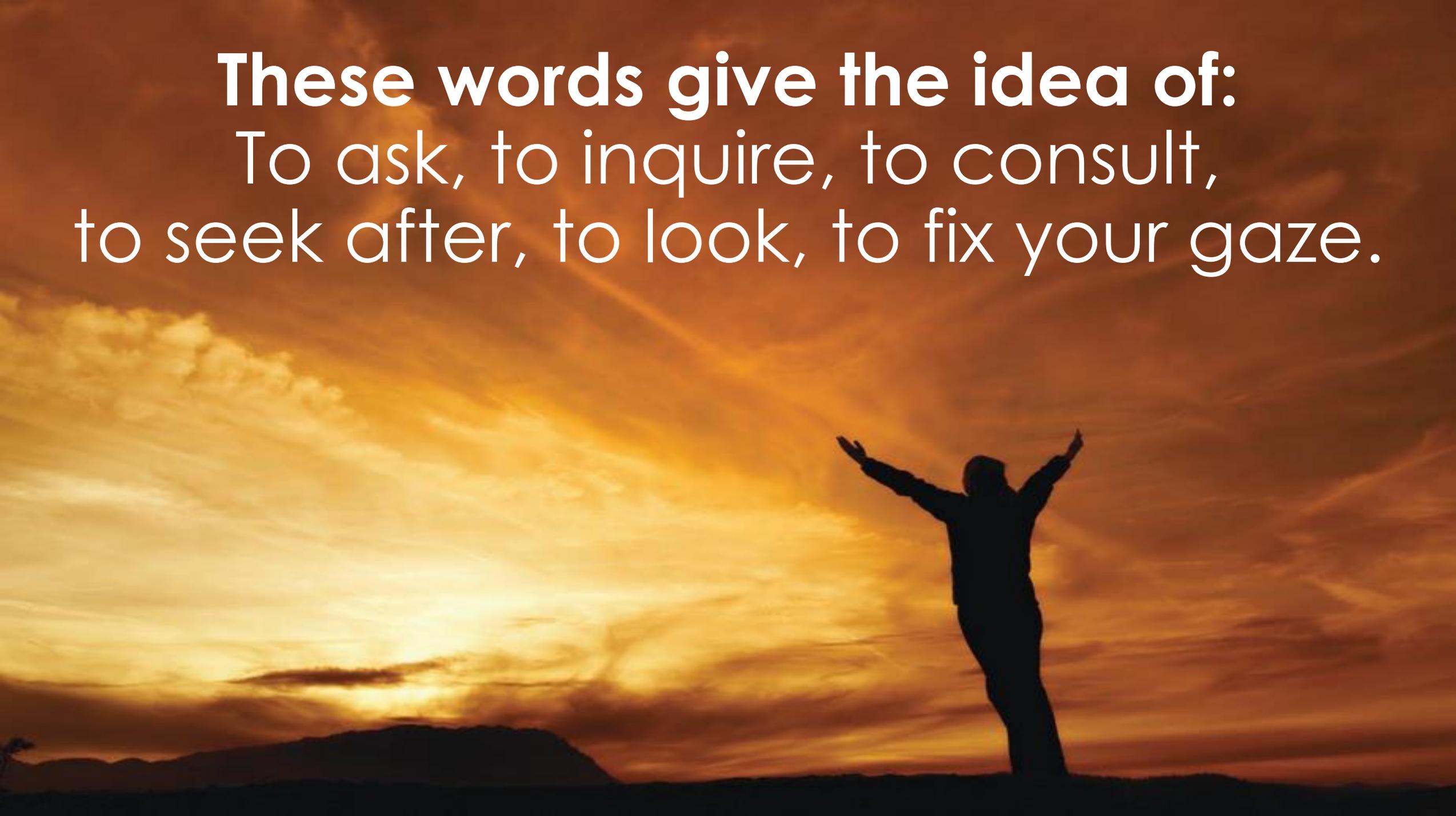
(4-5) I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.



Twice over in two verses David talks about those who **seek the Lord** and those who **look to him**.



These words give the idea of:
To ask, to inquire, to consult,
to seek after, to look, to fix your gaze.



David praised and honored the Lord
in worship before presenting any
requests or needs **in prayer**.



Application:

God wants us to regularly, continually & constantly seek Him in prayer & petition. God wants us fixing our eyes on Him, and to look to Him for wisdom, guidance, counsel, solace and relief. And, adoration should precede supplication.

(4-5) I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.



Four times over David talks about the
promised result of seeking the Lord.
(answered, delivered, radiance, not ashamed)



These words give the idea of:

To be heard, to answer,
to deliver, to surely rescue, to spare,
not humiliated, not embarrassed.



Implication:

I sought God → He answered

I had fears → He delivered

I turned to God → He didn't let me down

Application:

God wants us to believe that all of our knocking will be answered, and all of our petitioning will be heard. And God wants us to believe that the answer will always be for good not for harm.

(6-7) This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.



Nearly identical to the previous verse, David states that those who turn to God and cry to him for help will receive help.



Implication:

I cried out to God → He heard

I feared God → He saved

I turned to God → He didn't let me down



God wants us to cease from all self-dependence and to glorify him by admitting we are in trouble on our own...



...and to turn to him completely empty
and trusting him as our mighty provider
and protector.

Application:

We must turn to God.

We must seek God, we must present our requests, our fears and our longings to Him. We must admit our inability to help ourselves...and we must trust that God will answer in a good way.



(8-10b) Taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! Those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

4 times in 3 verses David
draws our attention to the
‘good that results’ for
those who turn to God.



Tasting
=
Goodness



Taking refuge in God

=

***Blessing
(happiness)***



Fearing God
=
Lacking nothing



Seeking God

=

Having everything good



Application:

We must believe that when we turn to God and bank all our hope (trust) in him...even if his answers/deliverance aren't in the forms we expected...they are always good, they are always intended for our benefit and our eternal joy.

(11-12) Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?



(13-14) Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.



David gives **four admonishments** to
those who desire to have
a long and good life...



Keep your tongue from evil.
[bad, harmful, adverse, wicked]



Keep your lips from telling lies.
[deceit, dishonest, false, treachery]



Turn from evil & do good.
[bad, harmful - beautiful, valued]

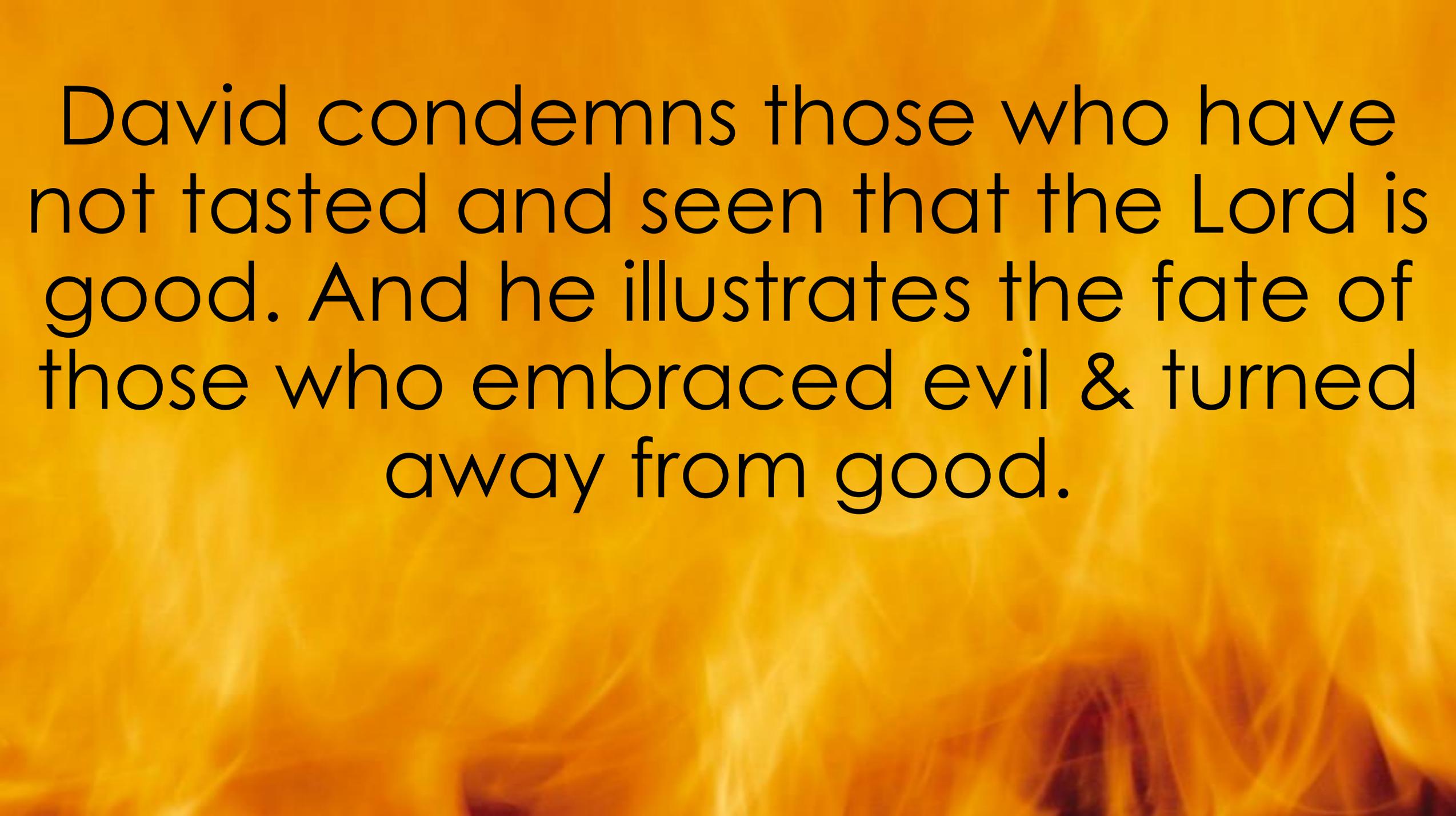


Seek & pursue peace.
[secure, sound, friendly, trustworthy]



Application:

Those wanting a long & prosperous life will...keep their mouths pure of evil & deceit, they will turn from evil in their actions & intentions, and they will purpose goodness & peace in all they do & say.

The background of the image is a close-up, high-angle view of bright orange and yellow flames, likely from a fire. The flames are dynamic and textured, with some darker, almost black, areas where the fire is more intense. The overall color palette is warm and fiery, ranging from bright yellow to deep orange and red.

David condemns those who have not tasted and seen that the Lord is good. And he illustrates the fate of those who embraced evil & turned away from good.



(16) The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.



God is against those who do evil.

Their memory/legacy is
annulled from the earth.

(21) Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.





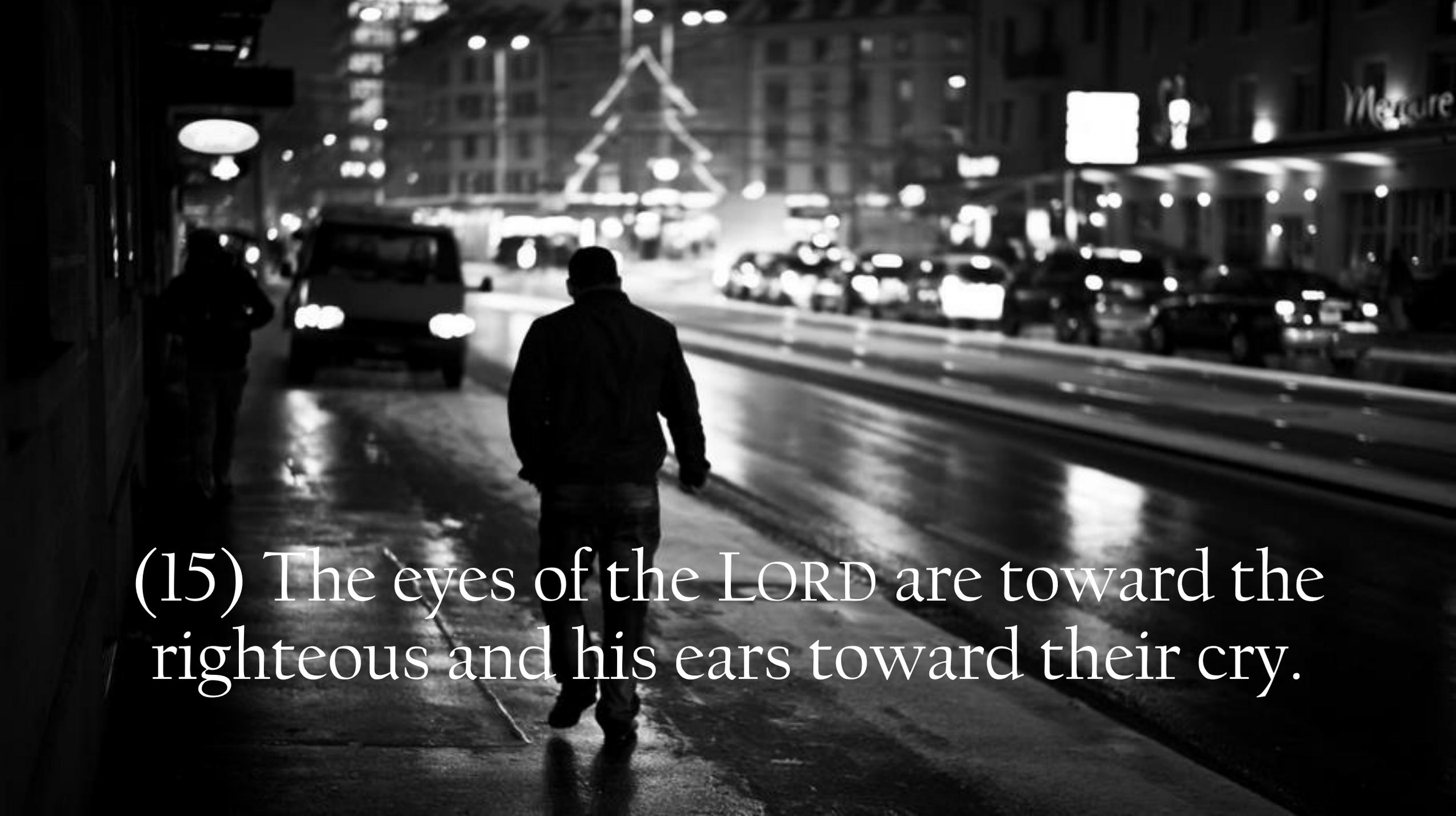
Affliction is the fate of the wicked.

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of bright orange and yellow flames, suggesting a fire or hellfire. The text is overlaid on this background.

Accusation and punishment is the destiny of those who despise God's righteousness.

David summarizes the fate of the believer; those who love God, trust his word and turn from evil.



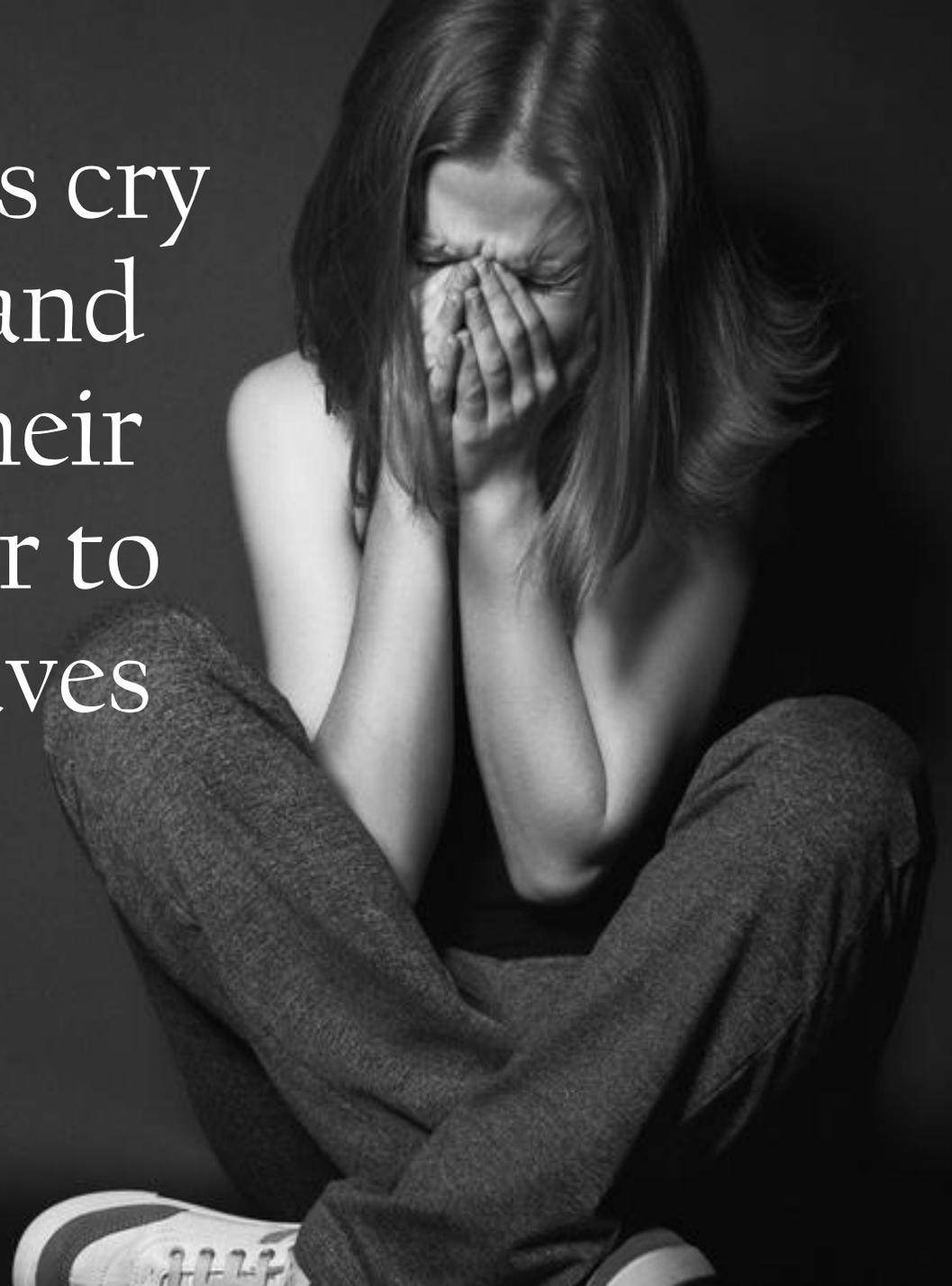


(15) The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

God is attentive to their needs & prayers.



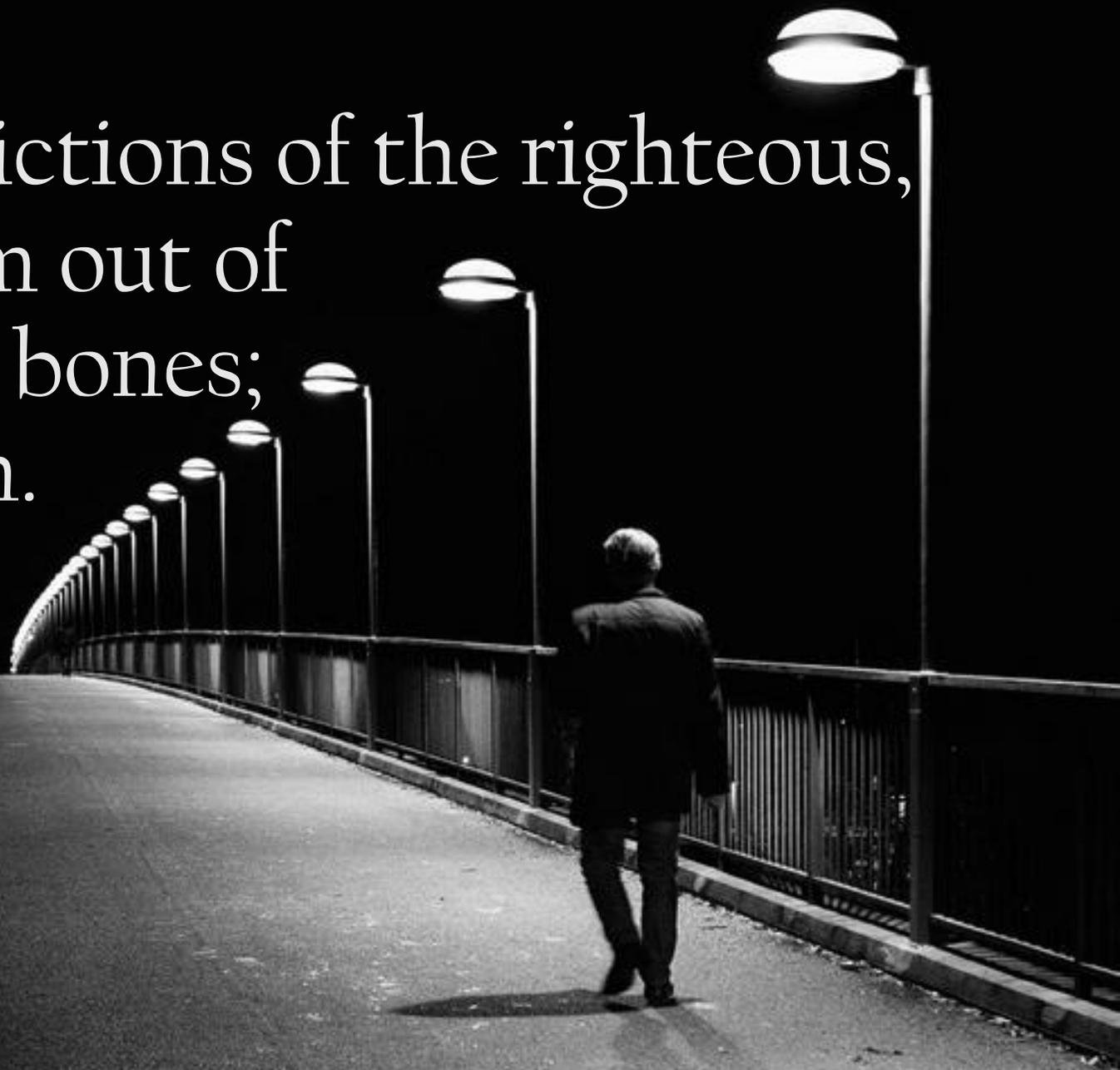
(17-18) When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.



God draws near to the broken & crushed and relieves their anguish.



(19-20) Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of
them all. He keeps all his bones;
not one of them is broken.



God gives ultimate salvation & protection, in all situations, to his righteous.



(22) The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.



God gives full acquittal to those who
serve & take refuge in him.



Application:

The believer (those counted righteous by God) can be confident that God is attentive to their prayers and in all his answers he is seeking the eternal good of and eventual vindication of the believer.