

The Attackers: David's Proposition in Ps 34:12: Do You Desire Happiness & a Long Life So You Can Receive Escrow Blessings? An Unhappy Person Is Not inside the Bubble but Lives His Life as a Smudge Pot: Life in the Cosmic Systems; Unhappy People Are Not Copacetic, Their Negative Mind-set Contributes to a Shortened Lifespan; Happy People Advance to Spiritual Maturity & Receive Escrow Blessings

Psalm 34:12 - Who is the man who desires life and loves length of days that he may see good? (NASB)

1. This verse needs some work and we start with the word "desires," the adjective **יָפֵן (chaphes)**: the normal person desires to enjoy life; to have fun; to have great pleasure out of life.
2. David is posing a rhetorical question. It is to be answered in the souls of those who read his psalm. Those who are uptight, tense, uneasy, indignant, rigidly conventional are unhappy people mentally entangled in the restraints of legalism or reversionism or both.
3. Unhappy people are not functioning inside the bubble. David's question is directed to those who have a normal desire to have fun in life.
4. This adjective actually describes lives, the plural noun **יָפֵן (hay)**. The plural emphasizes all aspects of life in which one can engage: social, marital, professional, recreational, familial, and personal.
5. And David is not only asking if you would like to enjoy life but also that it may be a long life filled with happiness.
6. David regrouped mentally after the Lord's seminar on reversion recovery. He realized that he had been living in Operation Smudge Pot, a term the Colonel coined to describe a person who has worried himself into reversionism. Here is an excerpt:

What is a smudge pot? In certain parts of California it is very nearly a catastrophe when the temperature drops as low as 32°, for the orange industry can be ruined overnight. For this emergency orange growers have thousands of little pots which they light at night in orange groves. These smudge pots, as they are called, give very little light, but throw out a tremendous smoke. Although the smoke provides protection from damaging frost, it also makes a dark night even darker.

Worrying is "Operation Smudge Pot!" The more you worry, the worse things become. It is like throwing smoke on darkness. Worry means that you are personally confused, and your confusion and worry clouds the issue for everyone who has contact with you. Confusion is a contagious disease. Worry is contagious. (p. 3)

But when we become aware of the doctrine of rebound and apply it, then Christ shall give thee light [Ephesians 5:14]—the filling of the Holy Spirit. But WHERE THERE IS WORRY THERE IS NO FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: there is habitual carnality, misery and childishness. Some believers never, never grow up. They remain smudge pots all of their lives. On the other hand, when worry is confessed and doctrine is applied, there is light and production. ¹ (pp. 3-4)

7. "Loves length of days" is an idiom describing a person who is not a smudge pot but a torch. It means that his days accumulate into a long life.
8. A person who lives in reversionism spreads darkness while the person that lives inside the bubble spreads light: smudge pots vis à vis torches.

¹ R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Smudge Pots or Torches* (Houston: Berachah Church Publications & Tapes, 1965), 3-4.

9. To this David continues by writing “that he may see good.” There is nothing like living in the status of spiritual maturity. You see the works of the Lord on your behalf on a daily basis.
10. “Seeing good” is an idiom that refers to the phenomenal blessings that come to a person who continues his pursuit of truth all the way to becoming a spiritual winner.
11. Over a long, happy life, he is able to enjoy God’s tremendous faithfulness to him through the imputation of escrow blessings day in and day out.

Psalm 34:12 - Who is the man who has the desire to enjoy all categories of happiness during a long life day in and day out so that he may acquire the ultimate good of escrow blessings in time? (EXT)