

## LONGING FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

### Psalm 84

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. In the movie, "While You Were Sleeping," Lucy [main character] describes her longing to visit Florence, Italy.
  - 1. What one place would you want to be that you would do anything to get there?
  - 2. Vacation spot? Any activity?
- B. Psalm 84.
  - 1. Compiled and possibly written by the "sons of Korah."
  - 2. The "sons of Korah" served as temple singers, musicians, gatekeepers and caretakers (1 Chron. 9:19; 26:1, 12).
  - 3. This psalm describes the writer's greatest joy – worshiping and serving God!
    - a. He had moved from duty to delight.
    - b. From obligation to sacred love.
  - 4. The basic theme: the joy and happiness of a life with God.
- C. As a Christian what is our greatest joy in life?

#### I. LONGING TO WORSHIP, vss. 1-4.

- A. How Lovely Your Dwelling Places, vs. 1.
  - 1. This is in reference to the temple, its altars and its courts.
  - 2. The writer emphasizes the glorious experience of praising God.
  - 3. Its beauty is from its worship, not the physical beauty.
- B. Satisfaction Based on God's Presence, vs. 2
  - 1. "*My soul longed...*," a lion longing for or yearning [eager] for its prey, Ps. 17:12.
  - 2. Describes the continual and earnest desire for communion with God.
  - 3. His whole being – his soul, heart and flesh – cherished the privilege of being with God.
    - i. Mark 12:30, "*...heart, soul, mind and strength.*"
    - ii. With every fiber of my being.
  - 4. Based on a joy that could be found nowhere else, but in the presence of the "living God."
- C. Appreciation of Access to God.
  - 1. The sparrow and the swallow, vs. 3.
    - a. "Bird," a general word translated "sparrow."
    - b. Even the birds built nests (homes) in and around the temple.
    - c. How privileged they were to have homes so near the temple.
    - d. No one is quite so blessed as the person who can continually worship God.
  - 2. Those who dwell in God's house, vs. 4
    - a. They never have to long to be in God's presence, always there!
    - b. Anna, Luke 2:36-37
  - 3. Selah – "*Pause and think about this thought.*"

#### II. GOD'S STRENGTH SUSTAINS, vss. 5-7.

- A. God Promises Strength to His People, vs. 5.
  - 1. These promises are for those who keep God in their hearts.

2. Just sitting in the “temple” is not sufficient.
  3. We need to “desire” to worship God!
  4. Not only worship to God, but living our lives for Him each day!
- B. The “*Highways to Zion.*”
1. The “highways” depict traveling to the place of worship.
    - a. The journey is filled with difficulties and weariness.
    - b. They do not become discouraged, for they anticipate worship to God.
      - a. Heb. 12:2, “...*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross...*”
  2. They go from strength to strength – they do not lose energy – anticipating worship.
    - a. 1 Cor. 15:58, “...*be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*”
  3. Everyone appears before God.
    - a. We receive encouragement from each other.
    - b. Entering Jerusalem for feast days, “*they went out to meet...*,” Jn. 12:12-13.

### III. THE ONE WHO TRUSTS IN GOD, vss. 8-9.

- A. A Prayer to God.
1. An interruption of the discussion on worship to God.
  2. “*Give ear to my request.*”
  3. His prayer is for God’s hand upon Israel’s king [David].
  4. Perhaps our prayers for one another as we fight the good fight!

### IV. A DAY IN HIS COURTS, vss. 10-12.

- A. Better Than a Thousand Outside, vs. 10.
1. He wants to be nowhere else. Just one day!
  2. There is no better place to be than in worship to God.
  3. Better to stand at the threshold than dwell in tents of wickedness.
  4. I want to be with God’s people – safe with those who are like-minded, Phil. 2:2.
- B. Why Fellowship with God is Desired?
1. The Lord God is a sun and shield, vs. 11.
    - a. Nowhere else is God both “sun and shield.”
    - b. God is the source of light and life [eternal], 1 Jn. 2:25!
  2. The Lord gives grace and glory, vs. 11.
    - a. Grace through Jesus Christ.
    - b. Purpose in our living – holding out the word of life to others.
  3. No good thing withheld...uprightly, vs. 11.
    - a. If a man walks uprightly..., Ps. 15:1-2.
    - b. This is to walk sincerely, without rebellion and with a heart of integrity.

### CLOSING

- A. How Blessed the Man Who Trusts in God, vs. 12.
1. Loving God and loving to worship Him is the highpoint of a believer’s life.
  2. The valleys and mountains seem as nothing, when walking with God.
  3. Our hope is in heaven and to be in the Lord’s presence eternally.
- B. Heb. 12:22-24.