

Psalm 84

July 31st

INTRO:

This Psalm is a Psalm of the Sons of Korah. To briefly touch on this story, remember that Korah led a rebellion against Moses and God swallowed up Korah and all his possessions. What remained were his descendants, one of which was Samuel the prophet. By the time of the events contained in the book of Chronicles the sons of Korah had duties that included managing the temple flow at the gate. You can see in this Psalm that there is allusions to the fact that it is better to be a doorman in the house of God than to Dwell in the tents of the wicked. To connect it back to Leviticus, remember that the tabernacle in the beginning and the temple later on was the dwelling place of God and through the sacrifices they could become morally and ritually pure allowing them to live or abide in the presence of God.

We are going to discuss being in the presence of God. I want you to understand that sometimes we speak about God's presence as if He was in some distant place disconnected from all of us. Thinking perhaps about the statement Jesus made when He said, "if any two are gathered in my name there I am in the midst". So, you have wrongly assumed that you are not always in the presence of God. We must remember that one thing has never changed from the time of Leviticus to this present day. You must be morally and ritually pure in order to be and abide in God's presence and that leads us to the big idea...

The Big Idea: Because of Jesus we are always in God's presence.

1. Seek God's Presence vs. 1-3

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. - Matthew 6:33

A. The Beloved vs. 1

The scripture proclaims, "how lovely is your dwelling place". The word lovely is the Hebrew word "yadid" which can be translated as the beloved. The dwelling place of the Lord is our beloved place.

B. Longing to Be in His Presence vs. 2a

The writers tell us that their soul longs and they event faint to be in His presence. Have you ever felt that kind of longing?

C. My Heart and Flesh Cry Out vs. 2b

My whole being the essence of who I am wants to be in the presence of the Lord. To such a degree that I cannot help but sing and praise.

2. Express God's Presence vs. 6-7

Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So, glorify God with your body. - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

A. Make Bad times Good vs. 6

We have become a meeting place between heaven and earth to bring other people in to commune with God. – Hope Bolinger (Writer)

The passage speaks of the valley of Baca. This is sometimes translated as the valley of tears. We are then told that those that are on the pilgrimage make it a place of springs. However, it is not us, but it is Christ in us that moves and changes the hearts and minds of those around us.

B. We start in strength; we end in strength vs.7a

In our pilgrimage our search for the presence of God we will start in a place of strength because of Him, and we will not weary because of Him.

C. We are assured of His presence vs. 7b

The temple is where God dwells with his people throughout the biblical story. So, if the people of God are the temple, that means it is through these people that God reaches the world. In the ancient world, people traveled from far and wide to encounter God at the temple in Jerusalem. Now, the people of God are the temple and take God's presence to the world. If the people are the temple, then they must make his glory known to all nations from now until Jesus returns. – Pastor Joe Slunaker (The Bible Project)

God has chosen His children to be His Temple we can rest assured that we will be in His presence.

3. Rest in God's Presence vs. 8-11

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

A. Hear my prayer but look on Jesus vs. 8-9

The writer is asking God to hear him, to listen to him in his time of need or his time of repentance. At the same time, he is reminding God to look on the face of His anointed one.

B. Better to be lowly with God than to be elevated with Man vs. 10

As we sang, better is one day in His courts, and I would rather be a doorkeeper in His presence than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

C. God is our provision and our protection vs. 11

Even when we walk through the valley of Baca God is providing and protecting us. Sometimes it is difficult for us to see what He is doing but we can trust that what He is doing is best.

Let's Get Practical: How to be Happy / How to be Blessed

Abide in God's House vs. 4

Praise God Continually vs. 4

Rely on His strength vs. 5

Be on Pilgrimage vs. 5

Trust in God vs. 12

Conclusion:

So how is all of this possible? Not by our power, not by our might, not by our seeking or searching. It is only possible for us to be in the presence of God because of the completed work of Christ on the Cross. The fact that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins thus gaining us access to the presence of God. God in His infinite wisdom choosing to dwell within us, to make us His temple so that we could be the connection between heaven and earth and in our lives and our words we share the Gospel to a world in need of His saving Grace.