

Be a Pursuer of God's Presence

Text: Psalm 84

Key Verse: Ps. 84:10

PSALM 84

OPEN

The words of Psalm 84 were intended to be sung or heard by those on pilgrimage in making the journey to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. A pilgrimage is a journey someone goes on to seek a fresh encounter with God. In the Old Testament, the Temple was where God made His presence known. And so, Psalm 84 was intended to be heard or sung by those making their way to the Temple, to encourage them and keep them going in taking this sometimes long and tiring journey – because at the end they would arrive at God's "dwelling place" – the place of His presence.

The words of Psalm 84 remind that when we daily pursue God's presence, we not only grow closer to God but our lives become characterized by His peace, His strength, and His blessing.

In the Bible, we see that every day God wants us to seek His presence. These three things (peace, strength, blessing) are the reward of those who do. Psalm 84 encourages each of us not to give up or lose sight of pursuing Jesus every day, that each one of us would know God's peace, God's strength, and God's blessing, as we keep focused on pursuing Him above all else. This week we look at ways to pursue Him.

REFLECT

- We read in the superscription that this psalm was written for a choir – the 'Sons of Korah.' The Korahites were doorkeepers of the tabernacle and became involved in leading worship. How large was King David's music ministry? Read 1 Chron 23:3-5 and 25:1-3 to find out.
- Read through the psalm and consider how many times God is referred to as 'Lord Almighty' or 'Lord of hosts' in some translations.
- As you read the psalm, take note of the various spaces or structures mentioned about the Temple, as they relate to the concept of God's presence and the idea of coming into the 'courts of the Lord.'

DISCUSS

- This is a psalm that was originally intended to be put to music. How much has music been a part of your journey and relationship with Christ? A little? A lot? How much is music a part of the way you seek God's presence in your life?
- What type of worship music most speaks to you, realizing that there are many types and cultural expressions of music in the examples of both scripture and church history that have helped believers worship and seek God's presence?
- This is a psalm about reminding us that the point of life is relationship with God and seeking His abiding presence. However, as Psalm 84 is a song of pilgrimage, how much effort do you think it should take to seek God? Is it hard to stay on the daily 'pilgrimage' of seeking God's presence? What are some of the things that get in the way or may tempt you to give up?
- In the OT, the Temple signified God's presence. It had a series of courtyards, inner courts, and spaces, that each gave closer and closer access to God's presence, culminating in the Holy of Holies where only 1 person per year was granted access. When Jesus gave up his life for our sin, the gospels say that the curtain guarding the Holy of Holies inner sanctum was torn from the top down, opening the way for us to encounter God's very presence. How does the Temple and its various courts serve as a picture of us experiencing God's presence at various levels today under the new covenant of Jesus' blood in terms of us developing a relationship with God?
- As God, He is omnipresent – He is everywhere. What Psalm 84 is talking about is God's 'manifest' presence, which is the place where God makes His presence known to our heart where we experience the embrace of His love. Have you had this kind of encounter? Share.

APPLY/PRAY

1. **Pray together, asking the Holy Spirit for a greater hunger for His presence.** Pray the words of Psalm 84:1-2 to become your desire.
2. **Pray for Wellspring to be a community of Jesus' manifest presence.**
3. **Pray for the discipline and sacrifice of seeking God in your life to increase and remain strong.**