

Title: The Pleasure We Have With God

Text: (Ps 84)

Point: Focus on our individual walk with God vs outward sings of Spirituality.

This blessed psalm is introduced as to the chief Musician upon Gittith,

A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

The occasion of the psalm is upon Gittith.

Gittith refers to a wine press.

This psalm written at the time of harvest of grapes which was always a time of great rejoicing.

The Psalm is associated w/Pentecost, feast of harvest “*Chief Musician*”-the choir director of the Tabernacle
The sons of Korah refers to the Tabernacle choir.
This psalm was evidently written for them to sing.

This psalm referred to The Pearl of Psalms
Is one of the sweetest of Psalm in the book of Psalms

This psalm was sung by Israelites as they made their pilgrimages to Jerusalem for the major holy feast days of the Jewish calendar, Pentecost in particular.

This magnificent psalm is organized according to the ‘selahs’ after verses 4 and 8.

The song of the soul set free soars to heaven as the people of God look forward to a blessed time of worship at the Tabernacle/Temple.

Are we losing sight of what is to be the devotion of our lives.

Are we focusing on The God of the Church, or the church with the best coffee.

I. The Pleasure We Have With God: (Ps 84:1-4)

A. The Beauty We have in God as a dwelling place:
(Ps 84:1) *How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!*

The psalm begins with a burst of praise like the sun rising in its glory at dawn.

Amiable~ sense of ‘beloved.’

Written prior to the construction of the Temple.

The people of God still went to the Tabernacle.

It is here referred to in the plural likely describing the other auxiliary ‘tents’ of the Tabernacle.

The greater truth, was the love which God’s people had for the Tabernacle of God & for the God of the Tabernacle.

What is the reason for our religion institutionalism?

God wants us to tabernacle with us.

(1 Jn 4:13)

(1 Cor 3:16; 6:19)

(Rom 8:9,11; Eph 3:17; Col 3:16)
(2 Cor 6:16) *for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, & walk in them; & I will be their God, & they shall be my people*

We have so many things that steal our affection.

What are our emotional desires that causes us to get up early on Sunday Mornings?

Can we purify our consecration & Worship?
Are we hungry & thirsty for God?

Why are our brethren in the 3rd world countries still hungering and thirsting for God?

Rebuke the mind that would regard the vain, temporal way to attract ourselves & others to God.

The trimmings of modern day society that attracts my flesh. - (Institutional Competition)

Oh God, purify my desires to only want you!

Instead of asking “*what works to get what I want?*”
Let us ask, “*what is it we should be wanting that pleases God?*”

B. The Satisfaction of His Lordship:

(Vs 2) My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord : my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

The yearning of the people of God for sweet communion with God and the fellowship of the saints at their assembly is eternal.

Though the context of the church today certainly is different, the spiritual yearning of the people of God does not change.

The psalmist freely confessed how his heart longed for communion with God.

In Christ, we have that privilege at anytime which the Old Testament saint did not.

However, there remains that sweet spiritual intimacy and fellowship as God’s people assemble at the house of God for worship.

I need to direct my heart and flesh to desire God!

Is it time to flush our thoughts regarding our empire building & get back to pleasure in our time with God.

If we lost all the material attractions would we still come to church to tabernacle with God?

Padded pews?
Coffee pot?

Music you like?
Etc.

Would you still come here to tabernacle with God.

Illus: the underground church in China.
A convert was jailed, and made to clean public restrooms.

He was doing such a good job, they felt bad for him doing a disgusting job, they wanted to change his job, and he asked to stay at it.

Upon investigating, the officials found that the Chinese government was providing pages of the Bible as toilet paper.

He would clean the pages to have access to God's word.

Do you long after God so that you would go to that length to just have access to a glance at God's word.
Do enjoy God's presence to the point where you willingly tabernacle with Him?
Is Jesus and you enough?
Is God enough?

C. The Security of the Altar: (Vs 3) *Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even*

thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.

The smallest birds of the heavens were blessed in being able to dwell at the Tabernacle permanently.

The altar is where the fire is.

The message is where the Swallow & Sparrow have found a nest where they can raise their young. Spurgeon wrote that "*the psalmist envied the sparrows and swallows which lived around the house of God, and picked up the stray crumbs in the courts thereof; he only wished that he, too, could frequent the solemn assemblies and bear away a little of the heavenly food.*"

Today, birds live on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. What blessed creatures they were when the Shekinah glory of God inhabited those precincts in the ages gone before.

What a blessed place to raise one's young. In principle, that remains to this day in bringing up our children in the house of God—faithful every time the door is open.

Threefold description of God:

He is the (1) Lord of hosts.

He is (2) our King.

He is (3) our God.
Nothing has changed in the intervening centuries.

D. The Consistency of my Worship:

(Vs 4) Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

A related blessing is pronounced.
Even as the birds of the heavens which nested at the Tabernacle were blessed, so are those who dwell in the house of God.

The word dwell is noteworthy.
There is blessing for those who are faithful to all the things of God.

The word dwell has the sense of ‘living’ there even as one ‘dwells’ at their home.

Those that are faithful and rooted in the church will be blessed.

Moreover, they will ever be praising God.
Continual and faithful fellowship in the local church will keep praise upon our lips.

One can do no better for his family than to see that they dwell in the house of the Lord.
There will never be any regrets.

To the contrary, all will be blessed.

What is it, that if it happened to me, that I would be willing to forsake God?

Ask yourself!

Then when you think of it, get on your knees and Confess & Repent so that you are in fellowship with God.

II. The Pilgrimage We Are Taking With God

(Vs 5-8)

(Vs 5) Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.

Another blessing is pronounced.

Those who draw their strength from God will find continual blessing.

The world offers its psycho-therapists and antidepressant drugs.

But he who will seek his strength and help in God will always be helped and blessed in the process.

The final phrase contains a number of ellipses by the translators noted in the italicized words.

They are not in the original.

That phrase could likely read, ‘Blessed is the man in whose heart are thy ways.’

The thought simply is that those whose hearts are directed by His ways will be blessed.

One will never go wrong to so order his life by the ways of God.

When His ways are in our heart, there is continual blessing in life.

Frustrated are those who go through the Christian life and never completely surrender to His ways.

(Vs 6) Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.

Those who find their strength in God and harbor His ways in their hearts are like those in Vs 6.

It is uncertain if there was an actual place called the valley of Baca.

However, the word literally means ‘weeping.’

The greater thought is that those whose strength is in the Lord will be able to take times of trouble and weeping and turn them into springs of blessing.

In Him is help, strength, and encouragement for any crisis of life.

Moreover, that well never goes dry.

He continually replenishes it with the showers of blessings which He regularly sends.

(Vs 7) They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

To this day, those whose strength is in the Lord have continual help.

He who is their strength never grows weary.

His strength carries over to the next time of need.

The final thought, “every one of them in Zion appeareth before God,” likely refers to those whose heart and strength is in the Lord were faithful in their appearances at Zion (i.e., where the Tabernacle was).

Jewish men were required to appear at the Tabernacle at least three times a year for the several major Jewish holy days.

Not all did.

However, those whose heart and strength were in the Lord were always faithful.

The local church meets three times a week today.

Those who are faithful are always there unless prevented by circumstances beyond their control.

(Vs 8) O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah.

There is an earnestness evident.

The psalmist begs God to hear his prayer.

It is apparent that his prayer originated from the bottom of his heart.

Thus, there is a lesson to this day.
Prayer from the heart is the prayer which God hears.

**III. The Provision We Have From God: (Vs 9-12)
(Vs 9) *Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.***

The prayer is for God to be turned toward His anointed.

In the context of Israel marching up to Jerusalem, the thought may be of their king.

In the greater fulfillment, the view likely is to the Messiah which means the Anointed One.

No doubt in the Millennium, saints of God will pray for God's blessing upon the Messiah as they march to Jerusalem.

Notice also how the psalmist refers to God as "our shield."

(Vs 10) *For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.*
As the psalmist focused upon the blessings of God's house.

One day in God's house is better than a thousand spent elsewhere.

Spurgeon wrote, "*To feel his love, to rejoice in the person of the anointed Saviour, to survey the promises and feel the power of the Holy Ghost in applying precious truth to the soul, is a joy which worldlings cannot understand, but which true believers are ravished with.*"

A doorkeeper (porter) at God's house was the lowest position assigned to the Levites. Likely the least seniority were assigned this humble task.

There was no glory, only tedium, in standing guard at the doors of the Tabernacle.

The tents of wickedness undoubtedly refers to the places of sinful entertainment—the nightlife of that day, the haunts of the highrollers, the resorts of the rich and famous.

The psalmist pleads guilty to desiring only the humblest service in God's house rather than the posh pleasures of the elite.

Indeed, there is no greater job than in serving the King of kings.

Even the lowest level of His service is higher than anything the world has to offer.

(Vs 11) For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory:

There is glory in the sun.

Yet, there is need of shade therefrom.

God is both to His people.

He is glorious to His people.

Yet, at the same time, He gives the needed protection from the elements of life.

He gives life and yet protects from the storms of life.

He gives grace & even glory to His people.

In this life, our ongoing need is His grace.

But He gives that grace as needed (James 4:6).

However, the day is coming when even His people will receive of His glory when He returns in power and great glory.

(Vs 11b) No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

What a wonderful promise.

Those who order their lives in uprightness will find that God withholds nothing good from them.

Of interest is the word translated uprightly (Mymt tawmeem').

It is most frequently rendered as 'without blemish.'

Indeed, "blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the LORD"

(Psalm 119:1).

God withholds nothing good from those who walk before Him in righteousness and holiness.

The psalm ends with a profound promise.

(Vs 12) O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

God always blesses faith.

He blesses those who live by faith.

As we trust Him for every need, decision, and direction; blessing is promised.

The word translated as '*blessed*' has the sense of 'happy.'

The greatest happiness in life comes from the blessing of God.

This same promise is reiterated throughout the book of Psalms. See Psalm 2:12, 34:8, and 40:8.