



¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of Heaven's Armies.
² I long, yes, I faint with longing
to enter the courts of the LORD.
With my whole being, body and soul,
I will shout joyfully to the living God.

³ Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow builds her nest and
raises her young
at a place near your altar,
O LORD of Heaven's Armies, my King
and my God!
⁴ What joy for those who can live in
your house,
always singing your praises.

⁵ What joy for those whose strength
comes from the LORD,
who have set their minds on a
pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
⁶ When they walk through the Valley of
Weeping,
it will become a place of refreshing
springs.
The autumn rains will clothe it with
blessings.

⁷ They will continue to grow stronger,
and each of them will appear before
God in Jerusalem.
⁸ O LORD God of Heaven's Armies, hear
my prayer.
Listen, O God of Jacob.

⁹ O God, look with favor upon the king,
our shield!
Show favor to the one you have
anointed.
¹⁰ A single day in your courts
is better than a thousand anywhere
else!
I would rather be a gatekeeper in the
house of my God
than live the good life in the homes
of the wicked.

¹¹ For the LORD God is our sun and our
shield.
He gives us grace and glory.
The LORD will withhold no good thing
from those who do what is right.
¹² O LORD of Heaven's Armies,
what joy for those who trust in you.

Being close to God:
Living in God's presence to
intimately communicate with
Him.

And now you Gentiles have also heard
the truth, the Good News that God
saves you. And when you believed in
Christ, he identified you as his own by
giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he
promised long ago.

(Ephesians 1:13)

**Why would we want
to be close to God?**

"What joy" (4, 5, 12)

³ Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow builds her nest and
raises her young at a place near your
altar. O LORD of Heaven's Armies, my
King and my God!
⁴ What joy for those who can live in
your house, always singing your
praises.

**Our true home in life is to
live in God's presence**

1

⁵ **What joy** for those whose strength comes from the LORD, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

⁶ When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.

⁷ They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.

Our journey through life is strengthened in God's presence

2

¹⁰ A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

¹¹ For the LORD God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

¹² O LORD of Heaven's Armies, **what joy** for those who trust in you.

Our sinful temptations are driven out when enjoying God's presence

3

How can we be close to God?

³ ...**your altar**, O LORD of Heaven's Armies, my King and my God!



Approach God through His sacrifice

1

⁸ O LORD God of Heaven's Armies, hear my prayer.
Listen, O God of Jacob.

Ask God to be close to you

2

"Lord of Heaven's Armies" (all-powerful)
"living God" (personal & immanent)
"my King" (just Ruler)
"God of Jacob" (faithful to His promises)
"God is our sun" (full of life and glory)
"our Shield" (Protector)

Mull over God's attributes

3

⁴ What joy for those who can live in your house, always singing your praises.

4

Praise God for who He is

Embrace habits of:

- Praising God for who He is
- Mulling over His attributes
- Asking God to be close to you

⁵ What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

5

Keep these habits with other Christians

- Praising God for who He is
- Mulling over His attributes
- Asking God to be close to you

6

• Praise God for who He is

• Mull over His attributes

• Ask God to be close

• Make these habits deep

• Start these habits with others

What step is God desiring you to take?

GOD

Bless You

Have a Great Week