



How lovely is your dwelling place,
 O LORD of Heaven's Armies.
 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.

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

O God, look with favor upon the king, our shield!
 Show favor to the one you have anointed.
 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)

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

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Our journey through life is strengthened in God's presence

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

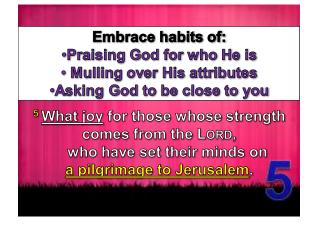














Praise God for who He is
Mull over His attributes
Ask God to be close
Make these habits deep
Start these habits with others

What step is God desiring you to take?

