

# Elements Class: Psalm 84

Choir Room: Sunday, July 10th 10:45am

**12 Life Changing Truths in 12 Verses!**





*Twelve*  
**TRUTHS**

IN



*Twelve*  
**VERSES**

(1) How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!





# 1

It is an incredible privilege to have access to an intimate relationship with the most high God. And that should become supremely attractive (lovely) to us.

The **ultimate reality** in  
all the universe is that  
**there is an almighty God**  
and in his presence are  
**‘pleasures evermore’.**

*David commends this to our attention and the only logical response is to see this as not only true but also as supremely desirable.*

(2) My soul yearns, even faints, for  
the courts of the LORD; my heart and  
my flesh cry out for the living God.



# 2

When we truly understand who God is and that he alone can fully satisfy us; there should come a deep longing for his presence.



David has been convinced of this ultimate reality, he has 'tasted and see that the Lord is good' and he can't get enough of him. He longs for more and more.

“In the end the heart longs not for any of God’s good gifts, but for God Himself. To **see Him and know Him and be in His presence** is the soul’s final feast.”

“If God contains the fullness of all good things in himself like an inexhaustible fountain, nothing beyond him is to be sought by those who strike after the highest good and all the elements of happiness.”

(3) Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God.





The true enviable quality of anything is not based on its size, income or contribution but on its proximity to the Lord Almighty.



David presumably witnesses a bird  
nesting near or on the temple itself  
and he envies how closely to the  
Lord the bird is able to make his  
home.

(4) Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.





Those most to be envied then are not the rich and the famous but rather the priests (those who live & work closest to the Lord) and have immediate access to him.

David then really envies the priests,  
who live in the temple courts, very  
near the Lord. He envies their ability  
to continually praise the Lord and  
experience the goodness & joy of  
being near him.

(5) Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.





# 5

The most happy (blessed) person then is the one who sets their satisfaction and hope in God and makes their aim to draw near to him.

David then realizes that anyone can enjoy this type of nearness to God. And anyone can benefit from the joy & strength etc found in him.

In his day a physical pilgrimage was required (to go to the temple and be near the Lord)...and he sees that those who undertake that 'drawing near to the Lord' as truly the most happy.

Today, **anyone can draw near to God, spiritually**, through the blood of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. And **this pilgrimage should be daily and regular.**



(6) As they pass through the Valley of Baka,  
they make it a place of springs;  
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.





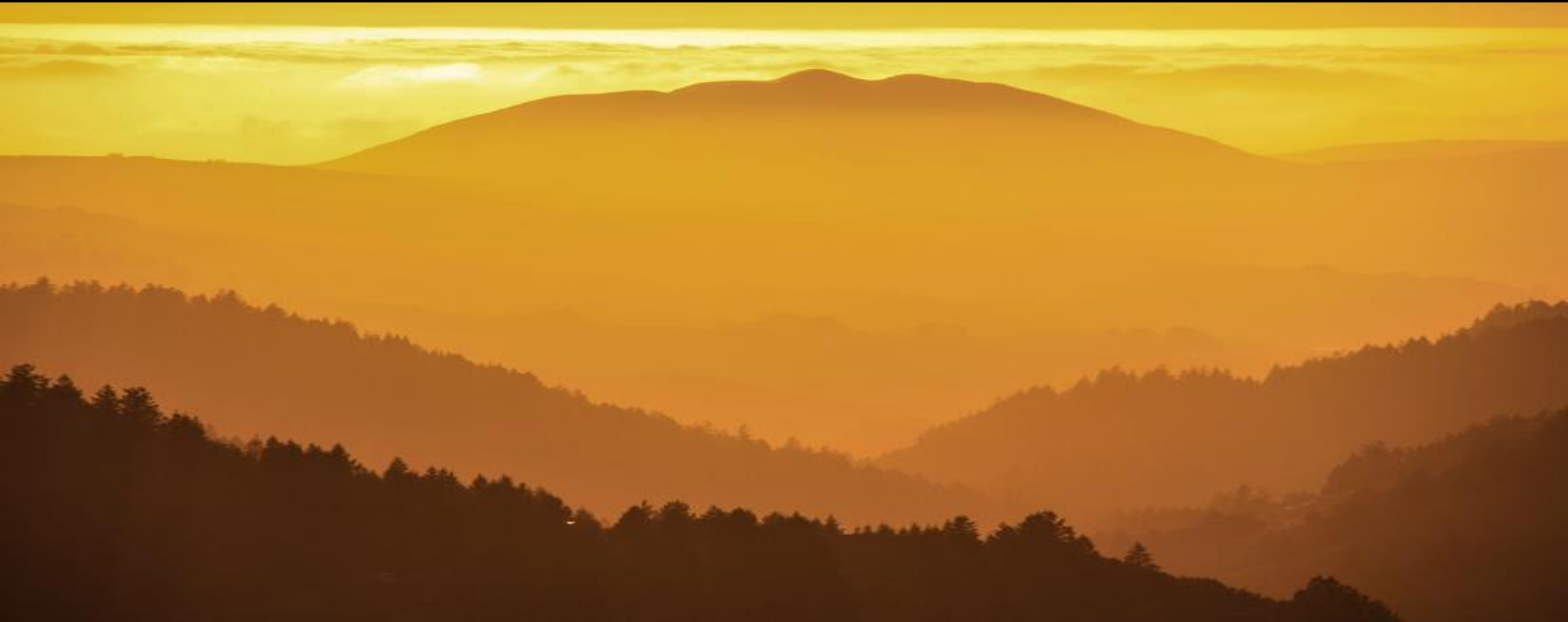
# 6

Because of their joy in the Lord these people are able to turn **misery** into **ministry**. They are a blessing wherever they go. They can turn mourning into gladness.

David says that those on a physical pilgrimage to God (temple) or those on a spiritual one (prayer) **will encounter ‘valleys of mourning’ and famine/trouble...but** their joy in the Lord will allow them to overcome.

In fact, it is **by their joy in the Lord**  
**that they will bring with them** (as  
they pass through a dry and weary  
land) that will 'water the land' and  
revive the soul of others etc.

(7) They go from strength to strength,  
till each appears before God in Zion.





Because of their joy in the Lord  
even the valleys in their life appear as  
victories...and their journey home to God  
is marked with success after success until  
their ultimate reward of his presence.



As David sees it, those who draw near to the Lord and have their joy in him, will have **a life that appears as moving from mountain to mountain.** The valleys will appear as 'successes' because of their impact on the situation and their deep rooted joy in the Lord.

This journey through life, passionately pursuing the Lord and trusting in his goodness has the ultimate reward of being with him forever.

(8-9) Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob. Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.



# 8

The reason they are to be envied  
and the reason they are able to  
turn tragedy into triumph is  
because they have the ear of  
(and favor of) the Lord.

The only reason these kinds of people are to be envied and the only reason they have this type of success is because they have found their joy in God and his ears are attentive to their cry and his favor is on them.

(10) Better is one day in your courts  
than a thousand elsewhere;







The secret to their success (and how to be like them) is to view time with the Lord/being with the Lord as 1,000x more valuable than anything else of value, even life itself.

Why God is attentive to their cry and why they have this mountain to mountain impact is because they have come to see God as more valuable, more desirable than anything else life has to offer.

(10) I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.





They value the Lord so much  
that being a maid near God is  
far better than being a  
master far from God.

These people, including David, have come to see that **the lowest position with God is of more value**, of more reward and more satisfying **than the highest position without him**. This is the 'secret to their success'. The reason for their joy.

(11) For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.







Why they value the Lord so much is because he has become their ultimate source of help, protection and goodness. In all their turning to him the answer is always good.

‘I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. **For** the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.’

Everything God gives is good/for good,  
and in him is 'pleasures evermore'...  
so I am freed from the pursuit of other  
good things or to make myself great. I  
can just as easily be a happy doorman,  
postman or footrest because I don't  
need high position or income to be  
satisfied. I already have everything!

(12) LORD Almighty,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you.



12

The thesis statement of  
this Psalm & of life is:

**Blessed beyond belief** is the person  
who hopes & trusts in the Lord!

“In the end the heart longs not for any of God’s good gifts, but for God Himself. To **see Him and know Him and be in His presence** is the soul’s final feast.”



“If God contains the fullness of all good things in himself like an inexhaustible fountain, nothing beyond him is to be sought by those who strike after the highest good and all the elements of happiness.”