

A pass through The Psalms: **Week 23: Psalm 84**

12 Truths in 12 Verses!

Verse 1: *How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!*

#1 It is an incredible privilege to have _____ to an intimate relationship with the most high God. And that should become supremely _____ (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.

Verse 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 _____ 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.

Verse 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.*

#3 The true enviable quality of anything is not based on its size, income or contribution but on its _____ 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.

Verse 4: *Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.*

#4 Those _____ 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.

Verse 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 _____ 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**.

Verse 6: *As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs*

#6 Because of their joy in the Lord these people are able to turn _____ into _____. 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 **will encounter 'valleys of mourning' and trouble...**but their joy in the Lord will allow them to overcome.

Verse 7: *They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.*

#7 Because of their joy in the Lord even the _____ in their life appear as _____ ...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.

Verse 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 _____ into _____ is because they have the ear of (and favor of) the Lord.

-Why these 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.

Verse 10: *Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;*

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

Verse 10: *I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*

#10 They value the Lord so much that being a _____ near God is far better than being a _____ 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.

Verse 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.*

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

Verse 12: *Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.*

#12 The thesis statement of this Psalm & of life is: _____
_____ is the person who hopes & trusts in the Lord!