



Psalms for Life

Daily Readings: (10/18-10/25) **Psalm 78 - 84**

Sermon: *One Day in Your Courts* (Psalm 84)

Summary: What do you make of the life situations in which you find yourself? Do you allow them to become deserts? Do you make them full of springs? If you are in a valley, find springs or make them or imagine them! When you are in life situations that are problematic, exercise your faith to find why God has you there and what He wants you to do. Learn and make the best of that situation because He is the reason you are there! Learn to be content like Paul.

One Day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere (v. 10).

“When God is your supreme value, your ultimate good - when you would rather have a lowly place *with* God than a comfortable place without him - then no matter what pain washes into your life, your deepest joy cannot be threatened. You are safe. Nothing can touch you. Even the valleys of life become places of fruitfulness.”

Ortlund, *In the Lord I Take Refuge*, p. 235

Memory Verse:

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Psalm 84:10

Psalm 84

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
- 2 My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
- 3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,

my King and my God.
4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise! Selah

I. When you dwell in the house of the Lord, you will be blessed!

Psalm 84
5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
6 As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
7 They go from strength to strength;
each one appears before God in Zion.

II. When you find your strength in the Lord, you will never be weak!

Interlinear Bible: Blessed is the man whose strength is in You; the highways are in their hearts. Passing through the valley of weeping they will make it a fountain; yes the rain clothes with blessings (v. 5-6).

Isaiah 55:8-9

The Highways are in their hearts!
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 84

8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
9 Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!
10 For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

III. When you enter the Lord's courts, you will never want to be anywhere else!

Psalm 84

11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
12 O LORD of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in you!

IV. When you trust in the Lord, you will never want for anything!

When you dwell in the house of the Lord
When you find your strength in the Lord
When you enter the Lord's courts
When you trust in the Lord
you will be blessed!
you will never be weak
you will never want to be anywhere else
you will never want for anything

Luke 16:19-31

19 "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' 27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—28 for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' 29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

CONVICTION

Difference between a conviction and a preference, according to the U.S. Supreme Court. A preference is a very strong belief, held with great strength. You can give your entire life in a full-time way to the service of the preference, and can also give your entire material wealth in the name of the belief. You can also energetically proselytize others to your preference. You can also want to teach this belief to your children, and the Supreme court may still rule that it is a preference. A preference is a strong belief, but a belief that you will change under the right circumstances. Circumstances such as: 1) peer pressure; if your beliefs are such that other people stand with you before you will stand, your beliefs are preferences, not convictions, 2) family pressure, 3) lawsuits, 4) jail, 5) threat of death; would you die for your beliefs?

A conviction is a belief that you will not change under any circumstance. Why? A man believes that his God requires it of him. Preferences aren't protected by the constitution. Convictions are. A conviction is not something that you discover, it is something that you purpose in your heart (cf. Daniel 1, 2-3). Convictions on the inside will always show up on the outside, in a person's lifestyle. To violate a conviction would be a sin.

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Life Application Questions

1. Have you been in a valley, literally and/or figuratively? What happened in the figurative valleys you walked through (or may still be in)?
2. How is it possible to make springs in a valley? What is required to make these “figurative” springs?
3. Are you able to trust God as you walk through a valley? Give examples.
4. What does Isaiah 55:8-9 mean to you and how does it connect to Psalm 84?
5. Where is the Lord’s court? How does one spend time there?
6. Why is one day in the Lord’s courts better than 1,000 elsewhere?
7. What trust must you have in the Lord to be blessed, to never be weak, to never want to be anywhere else and to never want for anything? What does that trust/faith look like? How do you find it/get it/keep it?