

Discussion Guide (August 20, 2023)

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Message: *Being Farsighted (series: Wise Up)*

PRIMARY PASSAGE

Psalm 84:1-4: *How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. 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. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they are ever praising you.*

Psalm 84:5: *Blessed are those whose strength is in You, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it to a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, 'til each appears before God in Zion.*

Psalm 84:10-12: *Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere. 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. Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in You.*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

If you want a longing to be in God's presence you have to

- Find your Delight in the Lord (verses 1-4)
- Find your Strength In the Lord (verses 5-7)
- Put your Trust In The Lord (verses 8-12)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Psalm 84:1-4.** Do you joyfully long to be in God's house? Does your heart and flesh cry out for God and His presence? Do you look at being in God's presence as an opportunity or an obligation? What are the things you are longing for more than God? How can you intentionally delight in spending time in God's presence this week?
2. **Read Psalm 84:5-7.** What is the valley of weeping (Baka) you are walking through right now? Is it hard for you to feel God's presence in your valley? What can you do to put your strength in God in the middle of your valley?
3. **Read Psalm 84:10-12.** What do you think it will be like to see Jesus face to face? Do you long for that? Does your heart and soul cry out and long for heaven? How can you become more farsighted and focused on eternity?
4. What can you do to find your delight, strength and put your trust fully in God? What can you do to seek God's presence and put Him first in your life? What can you do today to prepare yourself for being in God's presence for eternity?

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to develop a longing and deep desire to be in Your presence. Please forgive us for all the times we strive for other things more than You. Help us to become more focused on eternal things and to long to delight in Your presence for eternity. Amen.