



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

Psalm 84

The Blessing of Fellowship With God

In Psalm 84, we find the psalmist longing to go to Jerusalem to worship in the temple. The men in Israel were required to make a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem three times a year to celebrate three different feasts (**Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles: Exodus 23:17**). Each of these feasts commemorated major national events that had occurred in the past. For whatever reason, the psalmist could not make one of these pilgrimages and yet longed to go. While he could not go, he did not let that stop him from continuing his journey of fellowship with God. Even though he couldn't make the journey, he didn't miss out on the blessings of fellowship with the Lord. Psalm 84 helps us answer this question, "What blessings do we experience as we pursue intentional fellowship with God?"

First, we experience the blessing of finding our pleasure/enjoyment in God. This is a blessing because He's the only One that truly satisfies! We all need to ask ourselves, "Do I long for God like the psalmist?" Read verses 1-4. The psalmist longs for God like a person longs for a breath of air who just had the wind knocked out of them. His whole being sang for joy to the living God. The thought of being with God and with God's people was awesome to him. There was a hunger for God! There was a passion to be with Him! It would do well for all of us to pray, "Lord, give me a hunger for you and help me to find my pleasure in you."

Second, we experience the blessing (happiness) of finding our strength in God. God's people go through difficult times in life. We know what it means to be in the valley, but we don't remain there. Like the psalmist says, "we pass through the valley." In the tough times of life, as we pursue the Lord, we even receive blessings. This does not diminish the pain of what we are going through but it does highlight the wonderful grace of God. Not only do we receive blessings, we are even able to be a blessing! Are you experiencing the blessing of finding your strength in Him? It comes through intentional, consistent fellowship with the Lord.

Third, we experience the blessing of trusting in God. It's hard to trust someone you don't know very well. However, the psalmist knew the Lord well and knew he could trust Him. He knew that God was a sun and a shield and that the Lord gives grace and glory (11). He knew that God would not withhold good things from those who walk uprightly (11). For those who faithfully and intentionally pursue the Lord there is the blessing of trusting. How many of us worry instead of trusting? Ask yourself this question, "Does my trust in God reflect the reality of who He is?"

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