

VALUING GOD'S PRESENCE

To value something is to consider it important, worthwhile, to recognize its great worth, you hold it dear to you and you honor it as a treasure that you can't live without

So do we honor and value God's presence like that?

Church, true joy and fulfillment are only found in God's presence and nowhere else

**Psalm 84:8-12 NIV Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.**

**⁹ Look on our shield,^[e] O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.**

**¹⁰ 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.**

**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.**

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

The psalmist said I value one single day worshiping Him over a lifetime of worldly favor, pleasures, and luxury

Value comes by choosing and positioning oneself to elevate someone or something above everything else.

Did you hear that?

Church, God desires our hearts to be undivided, fully devoted to Him, daily choosing Him above all else in every area of our lives!

If you have very little desire for God's House on Sunday, it's because you have little desire for God's presence during the week

When we come to the Lord's House seeking His presence, we will experience His blessing. His presence releases who He is and what we need!

v. 10

Better is one day:

This verse emphasizes intimacy with God is greater than a lifetime in comfort without Him

Church, it's always presence over position. One day in His courts/presence is far superior, more profitable, and desirable. It's the highest quality where you leave blessed because you met Him there and nothing in this life compares to our God!

It's also quality over quantity. One day in His presence than a thousand elsewhere shows the immense worth of His presence!

Courts:

In this sanctuary, house of God, or temple which is what we are now and our lives should hunger for more of His presence to feel His temple here in our hearts!

v. 10

Doorkeeper in His House:

So many in the church can't value His presence because they're pursuing a position instead of simply valuing being in the proximity of His presence!

The psalmist said I would rather be a doorkeeper in His house – the lowest position was a doorkeeper or a threshold sitter in the temple.

A doorkeeper would stand on the threshold at the door entrance, even though not having the privilege to enter in but at least they would see who goes in and able to look into the courts, seeing all He does was a great privilege to them

He valued being close to His presence more than dwelling in the tents of wickedness

Why?

**Ps 84:1,2 NKJV How lovely ^[b]is Your tabernacle,
O Lord of hosts!**

² My soul longs, yes, even faints

For the courts of the Lord;

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

The psalmist said I will choose service over status because it's all about His presence and valuing every opportunity we have to experience His closeness!

No worldly houses, wealth, or notoriety can ever compare to one moment in His presence!

v. 11 NIV

When the Lord's presence becomes our everything we will then value His presence and we will long for Him more than worldly pleasures and He will give us grace and glory and no good thing will He withhold from us!

This promise is for those striving to live godly lives.

What God regards as good will always flow as we fulfill His purpose for our lives

Church, worship is not an event it's a home for our restless soul

Matt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

v. 5

One commentator said: Life is a journey where we often feel weak but those who set their hearts on a pilgrimage to God's presence find their strength in Him moving from strength to strength

v. 11

Another said God is not just a distant ruler but a sun (guiding and enlightening) and a shield (protecting and defending) those who walk uprightly and value His presence!

Today can you say I value His presence?

Would you do if you only had one day to live?

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