

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

(Psalm 84)

1) A passion for the house of God

***'How lovely is Your tabernacle,
O LORD of hosts!'***

(Psa.84:1)

**The psalmist loved the house of God,
was away from it and longed for it**

***'Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young—
even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My
King and my God'***

(Psa.84:3)

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

(Psa.84:10)

What was it he missed?

**It was God Himself that the psalmist
yearned for in the house of God**

***'My soul longs, yes, even faints for the
courts of the LORD; my heart and my
flesh cry out for the living God'***

(Psa.84:2)

Whilst individually our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, the church collective is referred to as the temple of 'the living God'. The same as in Psalm 84:2

'And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people"'

(2 Cor.6:16)

'Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit'

(Eph.2:19-22)

**Church, primarily, is designed for us to
experience and demonstrate the
presence of the living God**

**We experience God in many dimensions
such as worship, serving, fellowship,
teaching, testimony, communion,
spiritual gifts, etc.**

The grace of God flows horizontally

**We experience and give testimony
to the living God**

**The only other time this title is used
for God in the Psalms is:**

***'As the deer pants for the water
brooks, so pants my soul for You, O
God. My soul thirsts for God, for
the living God. When shall I come and
appear before God? My tears have
been my food day and night, while
they continually say to me,
"Where is your God?"'***
(Psa.42:1-3)

This, again, is a pilgrim psalm:

***'When I remember these things, I
pour out my soul within me. For I
used to go with the multitude; I went
with them to the house of God, with
the voice of joy and praise, with a
multitude that kept a pilgrim feast'
(Psa.42:4)***

Other usages:

'And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusite'

(Josh.3:10)

'Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"'

(Matt.16:16)

'For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God'

(1 Thes.1:9)

Like 2 Cor.6:16, these verses emphasize that the term is used to give testimony to the true and living God in an environment of idol-worship, counterfeit religion, or false gods

'I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth'

(1 Tim.3:15)

2) God's presence overcompensates for all else

'As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools'

(Psa.84:6)

Baca = weeping; pools = blessings

Pilgrims would experience various difficulties, but each difficult place was turned into a spring, producing an oasis

**There is nothing that the presence of
Jesus cannot overcompensate for**

**Every time we pass through the valley
of weeping is an opportunity to
encounter the nearness of Jesus**

**The glory is that these precious
moments enable us to transform every
trial into moments of unspeakable joy**

'But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them'
(Acts 16:25)

'But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"'
(Acts 7:55-56)

'And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness'
(Acts 4:31)

*'They go from strength to strength;
each one appears before God in Zion'*
(Psa.84:7)

**On a normal journey we go from
strength to weakness. But these go
from strength to strength. Why?**

Because they go from faith to faith

*'For in it the righteousness of God is
revealed from faith to faith; as it is
written, "The just shall live by faith"'*
(Rom.1:17)

Therefore they go from glory to glory

***'But we all, with unveiled face,
beholding as in a mirror the glory of
the Lord, are being transformed into
the same image from glory to glory,
just as by the Spirit of the Lord'***

(2 Cor.3:18)

3) He gives grace and glory because of Jesus

***'For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD will give grace and glory; no
good thing will He withhold
from those who walk uprightly'
(Psa.84:11)***

***God is a sun – full of blessing. As the sun gives light, warmth and beauty to the creation; so God is to the soul**

***And a shield – protecting us from all the enemy would bring against us**

He *gives* grace, He doesn't sell it

...and glory

Grace is present; glory is future

'Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God'

(Rom.5:1-2)

No good thing will be withheld from us