

THE LOVELINESS OF GOD'S HOUSE  
Psalm 84

Intro: Psalm 84 could be considered a spiritual autobiography. It was for the sons of Korah, and may have been written by David at the time that he was fleeing from Absalom, or penned later to record his feelings at the time.

It reflects David's search for peace and security, a search which may have taken place more than once because it seems that every new testing in our lives causes us to renew our search for the source of all true and lasting peace.

The Psalm is divided into three parts, the parts marked off by the word, "Selah," at the end of verse 4, and again at the end of verse 8. So we have three stanzas of four verses each.

In the first four verses we have DAVID'S CRY. In the second four verses, DAVID'S TEARS. In the last four verses, DAVID'S JOY.

Each section has a Beatitude:

- 1) The last verse of the first stanza.
- 2) The first verse of the second stanza.
- 3) The last verse of the third stanza.

In all three stanzas the Lord is addressed as "the Lord of hosts," or as "the Lord God of hosts" (vv. 1, 3, 8, 12).

Once David called the Lord, "the living God." Twice he called Him, "my God." Once, "the God of Jacob." Once simply, "God." And once, "my King."

In all three stanzas there is an emphasis upon the Tabernacle--sometimes referred to as "the courts of the Lord," or as the "house" of the Lord. See vv. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10. This, of course, was the place where God dwelt among His people, and always speaks of the presence of the Lord--thus being where the Lord is. Cf. Psa. 27:4.

There is a progression which can be noted as we pass from one stanza to another. We can certainly see our own experience reflected in this Psalm if we have learned what David had learned, and what he sought to express for the people of God.

First of all, let us note . . .

I. DAVID'S CRY (Psa. 84:1-4).

David was looking for a "home." He had learned before where that was, but a new trial had brought him to seek the Lord again.

"Amiable" means lovely. Fausset, in the JFB commentary, suggested the translation, "'How (much) loved (by me.)'" David knew at this point that no one could satisfy him, or meet his need, except the Lord. And so his whole being, inwardly and outwardly, cried out for the Lord!

Have we ever been there? Do we know that language? Job did. Wearied by his friends, he said, "Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat" (Job 23:3).

The Lord told the people of Judah through Jeremiah, the prophet, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13).

That enjoyment of the Lord's presence does not come with half-hearted seeking.

This ought to be our first exercise of the day--seeking the Lord. Note what is stated in the first beatitude in verse 4.

David's plea includes the lowly sparrow and the swallow. It does not mean that they had made their home in the house of the Lord, but that they had found a home, a place where they could raise their young. What their nests were to them, David knew that the Lord was to him.

This was his cry. Pray that it might be yours.

## II. DAVID'S TEARS (Psa. 84:5-8).

This explains the reason for his cry. David was living in "the valley of Baca," this vale of tears. In Psalm 23 he called this world "the valley of the shadow of death."

Here David needed strength to go on. The NKJV translates the latter part of verse 5, "Whose heart is set on pilgrimage." The NIV is very similar. The NASB says, "In whose heart are the highways (to Zion)."

The point is that this world is not home for us! We are on our way home. But even here in this sinful world we can enjoy in a limited way what we will enjoy to the full when we get to heaven. But we are pilgrims here, struggling with the trials that continually face us. And yet here we have the springs and rains of God's blessing which strengthen us on our journey. These are all found in the house of the Lord, as we seek for and enjoy the Lord's presence.

And this is what gives us our strength to face the trials of life.

But then we come to . . .

### III. DAVID'S JOY (Psa. 84:9-12).

There is a question regarding verse 9 as to whether or not David is calling the Lord his shield, or is asking the Lord to look upon their shield. "Our shield" comes first in the verse. It may be that He was calling on the Lord to notice the slim defense they had if they were left to themselves.

"Thine anointed" is evidently a reference to David himself.

We see how the king spoke regarding the Lord in verse 10. One day with the Lord is worth a thousand any place else. And it would be better to be the custodian of the Lord's house, than to have a home in the tents of wickedness.

Why? // To be a doorkeeper means to lie down on the thresh-  
// hold, to stay at the entrance rather than being  
// admitted inside.

The answer is in verse 11, and the conclusion is stated in verse 12.

Trusting in the Lord (v. 12) means, according to verse 11,

- 1) Realizing who the Lord is--a sun and a shield.
- 2) Understanding what the Lord gives: grace now, and glory to come.
- 3) Believing God's promise to those who are obedient to His Word: "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Concl: One purpose for our testings is to humble us. Here we see how the anointed of the Lord was brought low, perhaps through the rebellion of Abasalom. Only the Lord could satisfy him. The Lord alone will not disappoint. And in the greatest of trials, the Lord of hosts shows us that He is sufficient, and that happiness is secure if all we have is the Lord Himself.