

MY HELPER #62 DESIRE FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

Psalm 84:1-3 How lovely is your dwelling place, O 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, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God. NIV

I. God's dwelling place

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

David is consumed with getting into the presence of God. He talks about how lovely the dwelling place of God is.

God's dwelling place was in the "tabernacle in the wilderness". God chose to dwell in the most holy place where the ark was.

He later dwelt in "Solomon's temple" which was the most expensive building ever built. When God inhabited that temple 120 priest could not stand to minister for the glory that filled the house.

We of course know that our bodies are now the temple that God has chosen to dwell in by His Spirit.

The book of Revelation declares that God dwells in the heavens. It is described as a city having "gates of pearl, walls of jasper and streets of gold".

What does it mean if we have a temple or a holy city without the presence of God? David longed for the presence of God!

II. David's holy desire

V1-My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;

A. His soul desired God's presence

The soul is the mind, will, and emotions.

He is fulfilling God's command.

Deu. 4²⁹ But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. NIV

David is a "soul worshipper". He was emotional in seeking after God.

Psa. 149³ Let them praise his name with **dancing** and make music to him with tambourine and harp. NIV

David dances to the max when the ark is returned to Jerusalem.

Psa. 150³ Praise him with the **sounding of the trumpet**, praise him with the harp and lyre,⁴ praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute,⁵ praise him with the **clash of cymbals**, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Psa. 47¹ **Clap your hands**, all you nations; **shout** to God with cries of joy.

Psa. 103² **Praise the Lord, O my soul**, and forget not all his benefits—

B. His soul faints for the presence of God.

David knows what he talking about.

He is expending all of his senses and emotions to go after God. He is at the point where only the presence of God can restore him.

Isa.²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

III. David's Holy Desperation

V2.... my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Desperate people do desperate things. Being quite with their request is not one of them.

Blind Bartimaeus heard Jesus was passing by. When he sensed his presence in Mar. 10 ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Matt. 15:22 a woman cried out to Jesus for her son that was possessed of a devil.

How desperate are we for God? We have been asking for a habitation of His presence and for signs and wonders to be performed in the presence of sinners. This will only happen when we “cry out”, fast, pray, isolate ourselves, and intercede for the lost to be touched by his presence.

Not by just coming in prayerless, empty, and faithless, expecting the worship or sermon to move us into his presence. It will not happen!

IV. David wants to get into a special place.

Remember that at this time the ark is in the open. It is under David's tabernacle. People could go out to worship and see the ark.

Apparently David was a bird watcher. He speaks of birds in other Psalms.

Psa. 124 ⁷ We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare;

Psa. 55 ⁶ I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest— ⁷ I would flee far away
and stay in the desert; *Selah*

David observes the access of this bird and covets its place.

Psa. 84 Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,.... a place near your altar,

- The altar is a place to meet God
- It is a place of covenant
- It is a place of redemption
- It is a place of favor
- It is a place of fire

Remember David could not go near the ark nor the altar.
He desired to be near God's altar.

He says in v ⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you. *Selah*

He knows that the priests are blessed because they are in
God's house offering up praises.

We are "a royal priesthood" and our assignment is to offer up
the praises of our lips.

Note what the bird does at the altar..... v3.. “where she may have her young”

When you get in the presence of God something happens.... God gives birth to something: dreams, visions, purpose, desire, direction etc.

Another point of view perhaps would be this: our young need to be near God’s altar.

We place more emphasis in our children with secular desire than desire for the things of God. Sports, education, etc are placed about church and God’s altar.

Children are not encouraged to go to Sunday School buy parents. The church is divided into children’s ministries in a.m. service and on Wednesday night it is youth, boys and girls ministry.

When does the family worship together at God’s altar? Sunday night is a prime time to get them into God’s presence. The altar will do more for your children than any athletic event. It will keep them moral, make them beneficial to society, make them givers and not takers, and fulfilled in life.

I challenge the church to get our children to the altar!