

# Getting to... ...His Presence

## Psalm 84

"I LONG, YES, I FAINT WITH  
LONGING TO ENTER THE  
COURTS OF THE LORD..."

PSALM 84:2



# “Psalm of Pilgrimage”

<sup>1</sup> How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts! <sup>2</sup> My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. <sup>3</sup> The bird also has found a house, 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. <sup>4</sup> How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They are ever praising You. Selah. <sup>5</sup> How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, In whose heart are the highways *to Zion!* <sup>6</sup> Passing through the valley of Baca they make it a spring; The early rain also covers it with blessings. <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength, *Every one of them* appears before God in Zion. <sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah. <sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God, And look upon the face of Your anointed. <sup>10</sup> For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand *outside*. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. <sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. <sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, How blessed is the man who trusts in You!



**Just Passing Through** faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them."

Hebrews 11:13

### **Hebrews 11:13-16 (MSG)**

***<sup>13</sup> Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. <sup>14</sup> People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. <sup>15</sup> If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. <sup>16</sup> But they were after a far better country than that—heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.***



# “Psalm of Pilgrimage”

**It is Set in the “Glory Days” of Israel**

- **The Kingdom was United**
- **King David was on the Throne**
- **Every year- Pilgrimage fr Every Territory...**  
    **...to Jerusalem for Feast of Tabernacles**
- **This Psalm is from One Unnamed Pilgrim as He Makes His Way**  
**He Had an (Intense Desire) for the House of God...**  
    **...to be with God’s People, Worshipping**

**Note- Everybody was Involved...yet All Came...**

- **Different Places**
- **Different Distances**
- **Same Purpose**

“LONGING TO ENTER THE  
COURTS OF THE LORD...”  
PSALM 84:2

# Advice for Travelers (5-8) A single day in your

**In Order to Get to God's Presence, there is a Journey to Be Made**

- **He Describes this Journey as a "Happy" One (*blessed is the man*)  
...Because the Thought of the Destination Motivates Him.**
- **Even Through Harsh, Difficult, Dangerous Places – "*He is Blessed*"**
- **Clear Picture of OUR Journey (Our Pilgrimage) Through Life**

**We are Passing Through This World, Our Destination is...**

**...God's Presence – "*Here and the Hereafter*"**

- **Here= Can Be Hindered- has to be sensed by Faith**
- **Hereafter= Can Not Be Hindered- can be sensed by Sight**

**4 Guiding Principles for a Successful Journey...**

**...Into His Presence**



# Look to God Alone for Your Strength (5)

*Blessed are those whose*

***“Blessed is the man whose strength is in YOU....”***

**An All-Important Key Testified to by Every Page of Scripture**

**The Christian Life Is Not Merely “Hard” ...**

**...it is IMPOSSIBLE Without God’s Strength**

**Jesus is Both *“the author and finisher of our faith”* -Hebrews 12:2**

**To Live This Life We MUST Have God’s Strength**

- Saving Strength
- Sustaining Strength
- Enabling Strength

**Our Own Resources Are Completely Inadequate**

*Psalm 54:5*



# Look to God Alone for Your Strength (5)

*Blessed are those whose*

***“Blessed is the man whose strength is in YOU....”***

- **Power Principle #1: Your Power is Not Enough**

*“It’s not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says..Lord” -Zech 4:6*

- **Power Principle #2: Your Timing is Not Enough**

*“They that WAIT upon the lord shall RENEW strength” -Isa 40:31*

**2 Cor 12:9 (AMP)** <sup>9</sup> But He said to me, My grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for *My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective* in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses *and* infirmities, that the strength *and* power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me! **2 Cor 11:25-28**

*Psalm 84:5*



# Put Your Heart Into the Journey (5)

***“Blessed is the Man Whose Strength is in You...  
...Whose Heart Is Set On Pilgrimage”***

- **Make Your Life Count!**

**We Ought Not to Be People Just Letting Life Pass Us By...**

- **Being Dictated to By Our Circumstances**
- **We Must Have Our Eyes On the Finish Line**
- **Our Energies Ought to Be Occupied w-  
...Making the Journey Count; Living For Jesus!**
- **Paul Wrote: *“For Me To Live Is Christ!”***
- **Look for Opportunity Every Day Brings Grow/  
...Develop for the Glory of God**



# See Opportunity in Every Trial (6)

**Baca = Root Word= *“to mourn, wail, or lament”***

**...Brokenness, Confusion, Affliction**

**• Key To Life Is NOT to Pretend Trials Don't Exist ...**

**...But Rather to See Trials as Opportunities**

**• If The Lord Is Your Strength/ Your Heart Is Set On The Journey...**

**...You Can See The Valley of Weeping Become a Spring**

**...What Depletes You Actually Completes You!**

**• Place of Bitterness Can Become a Place of Blessing/ Growth**

***“Faith Dares To Dig Blessings Out Of Hardships!”***

**It's Not Easy, But W- God's Help We Can Use Trials As Opportunities to...**

**• Prove God**

**• Grow in God**

**• Be a Testimony for God**



# See Opportunity in Every Trial (6)

**We All Love the “Mountain Top” Experiences...**

**....Times of Blessing and Sunshine**

**The View Is Nice Up There...**

**...But the Fruit Grows in the Valleys!**

***“Faith Digs Wells in the Driest Places/ Finds that Living Water”***

- Joseph
- Job
- David On The Run

**Romans 8:28-29, *“All Things Work Together For Good To Them That Love God And Are The Called According To His Purpose”!***



# Remember that God is in Control (7)

***“they go from strength to strength”***

- **Strength= *Army, Force, Supply***

**He Will...**

- **Always Be in Sovereign Control**
- **Never Surrender His Position on the Throne...**  
**...To Any Person or Any Thing**
- **He Cannot Be Defied**
- **He Is In Control**
- **His Promise Never Fails**



# Remember that God is in Control (7)

- <sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob!  
Selah. **(He Hears)**
- <sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God, And look upon the face of Your  
anointed. **(He Sees)**
- <sup>10</sup> For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand *outside*. I  
would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness. **(He Satisfies)**
- <sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace  
and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk  
uprightly. **(He Protects/ Provides)**
- <sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, How blessed is the man who trusts in You!



# Remember that God is in Control (7)

**He Will...**

- **Direct My Steps In Strength**
- **Bring Me Right Through Any Valley**
  - **This Is The Promise Of God**
  - **Through the Power of God**
  - **Into the Presence of God**

**This Journey Will...**

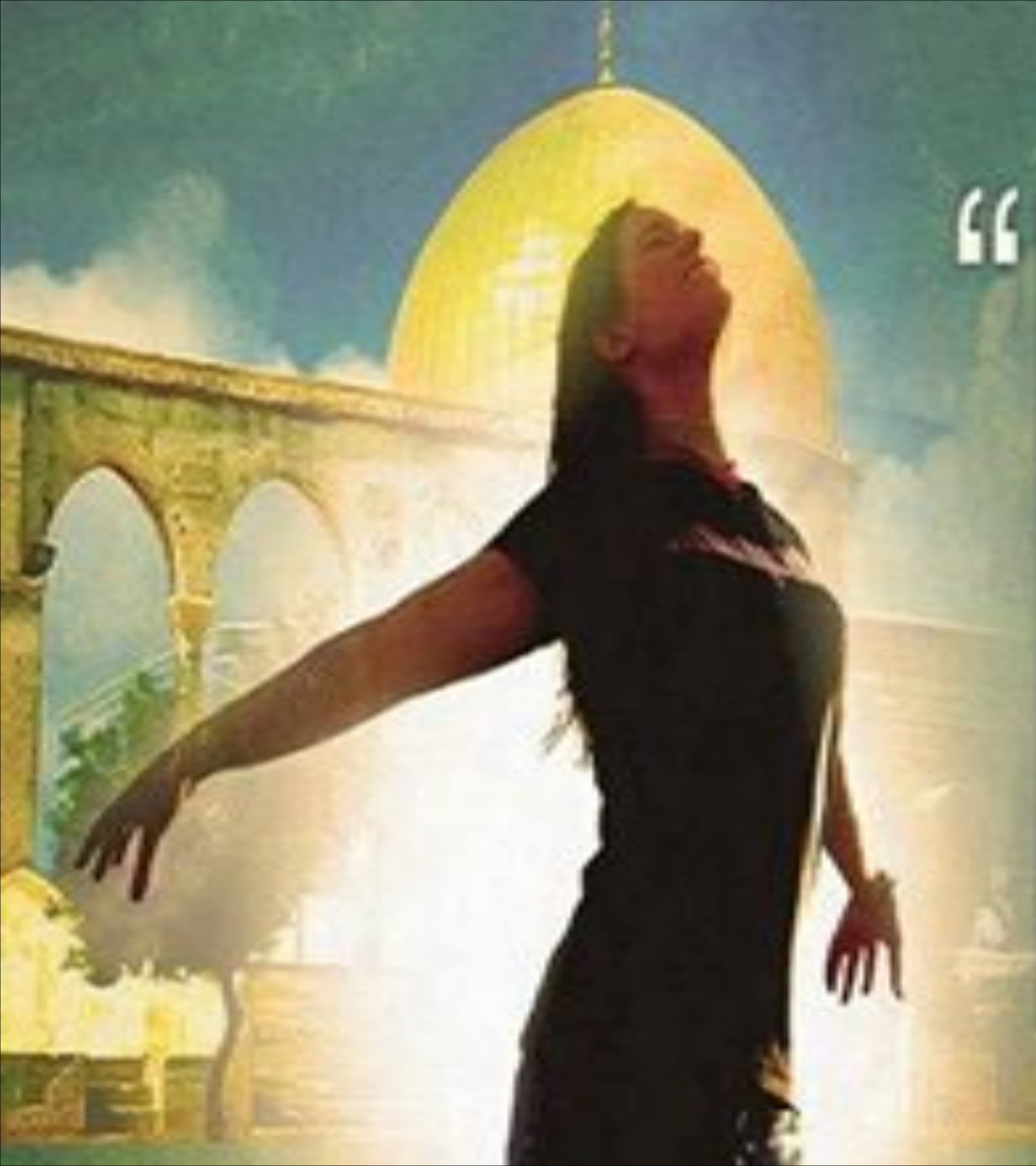
- **Deplete Me...no**
- **Complete Me...yes**



**HARDSHIPS OFTEN  
PREPARE ORDINARY  
PEOPLE FOR AN  
EXTRAORDINARY  
DESTINY...**

**-C.S. LEWIS**





“

**A single day in your  
courts is better than a  
thousand anywhere else!**

I would rather be a gatekeeper in the  
house of my God than live the good  
life in the homes of the wicked.

PSALM 84:10 (NLT)