

Sermon Title: **“WORSHIP THE LORD: A POWERFUL LIFE!”**

Sermon Text: Psalm 84

Introduction:

GOOD MORNING TO ALL! WE PRAISE THE LORD FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF WORSHIPING HIM TOGETHER IN PERSON. SAY TO YOUR SEATMATE: “I PRAISE THE LORD YOU ARE HERE!” DID YOU KNOW THAT THOUSANDS OF OUR BRETHREN IN THE FAITH ARE DOING THEIR SERVICES OR WORSHIP CELEBRATION LIKE THIS “IN HIDING”? MANY OF OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE NOW RESIDING IN **RESTRICTED NATION** ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PUBLICLY WORSHIP THE LORD. AND SO WE ARE SO MUCH BLESSED THIS MORNING THAT WE CAN HAVE THIS FREEDOM TO BE HERE TODAY, TO FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER AND TO WORSHIP THE LORD TOGETHER.

CAN WE PAUSE FOR A WHILE AND THANK GOD FOR THIS AWESOME PRIVILEGE IOF WORSHIP! JOIN ME IN PRAYER...

THIS MORNING, WE ARE GOING TO STUDY A VERY POWERFUL PSALM OR PRAYER THAT I BELIEVE HOLDS THE KEY TO RENEWAL AND SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY OF OUR WALK WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. PSALM 84 IS ACTUALLY A PRAYER THAT TELLS OF THE **DEEP LONGING** OF A LEVITE OR PRIEST (WHO PERHAPS HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM DOING HIS REGULAR RESPONSIBILITY OF DOING A TASK IN THE HOUSE OR TEMPLE OF THE LORD IN JERUSALEM). AS I RESEARCHED ON THIS MATTER, PERHAPS THE WAR WITH THE ASSYRIANS UNDER KING SENNACHERIB PREVENTED THE PRIESTS FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES AND HERE THE PSALMIST EXPRESSES HIS DEEP DESIRE AND LONGING TO BE IN THE TEMPLE.

AS WE STUDY THIS PSALM, WE WILL DISCOVER SEVERAL VERY IMPORTANT REASONS WHY THIS PSALMIST DEMONSTRATED SUCH INTENSE AND PASSIONATE DESIRE TO BE IN THE COURTS OF THE LORD.

A. THE PSALMIST **EXPRESSES** HIS **DEEP LONGING** FOR THE LIVING

GOD!

THE PSALM CAN BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS. THE FIRST SECTION/PART IS ABOUT THE PSALMIST'S CONFESSION & EXPRESSING HIS DEEP LONGING FOR THE LORD. AND HE IS GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS DEEP LONGING IN THE SECOND SECTION.

AS WE STUDY THE FIRST SECTION/PART OF THIS PSALM, WE WILL SEE THE THREE (3) IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HIS DEEP LONGING FOR THE LORD.

1) The End Goal of his deep longing is the LORD ALMIGHTY!

"How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of Armies. I long and yearn for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God." (vv. 1-2)

FIRSTLY, NOTE THAT THE END GOAL OF HIS LONGING IS NOT JUST TO BE IN THE COURTS OR TEMPLE OF GOD NOR TO BE WITH THE LORD'S PEOPLE BUT TO BE WITH THE LORD HIS GOD! IN OTHER WORDS, HIS GOAL IS NOT THE PLACE NOR PEOPLE BUT THE PERSON, THE LORD HIS GOD WHO DWELLS IN THE TEMPLE!

2) The Enthusiasm of his deep longing is INTENSE!

"How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of Armies. I long and yearn for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God." (vv. 1-2)

SECONDLY, NOTE THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE PSALMIST IS INTENSE! THE WORDS USED BY THE PSALMIST SHOWS US HIS INTENSE DESIRE TO COMMUNE WITH GOD.

3) The Extent of his deep longing is his TOTAL BEING!

"How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of Armies. I long and yearn for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for the living God." (vv. 1-2)

THIRD & LASTLY, NOTE THE EXTENT OF HIS LONGING – IT IS HIS TOTAL BEING! THE WORDS “MY HEART & FLESH” INDICATES THE PASSION & INTENSITY OF THIS PSALMIST DESIRE & LONGING TO BE WITH HIS GOD!

THEREFORE, OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IN WORSHIP IS NOT TO BE IN THE PLACE. IT IS NOT TO BE WITH THE PEOPLE OR THE BELIEVERS THOUGH THIS IS GOOD & IS USED BY THE LORD TO BLESS US. BUT OUR ULTIMATE OR END GOAL IS TO BE WITH THE LORD OUR GOD!

B. THE PSALMIST **EXPLAINS** HIS DEEP LONGING FOR THE LIVING GOD.

IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE PSALM, THE PSALMIST/AUTHOR **GIVES** US HIS **REASONS** FOR HIS DEEP LONGING FOR THE LORD! AND I THINK THAT WE CAN LEARN A LOT FROM THESE REASONS.

1) We will **EXPERIENCE** the **BLESSEDNESS** of praising & worshiping the Lord!

“Even a sparrow finds a home, and a swallow, a nest for herself where she places her young— near your altars, Lord of Armies, my King and my God. How happy are those who reside in your house, who praise you continually. Selah. Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.” (vv. 3-5)

INDEED, IT IS A **GREAT PRIVILEGE** TO PRAISE & WORSHIP THE LORD & TO BE IN THE VERY PRESENCE OF THE LORD. IT IS THE ETERNAL WORK/MINISTRY OF ANGELS. AND THE LORD HAS GIVEN US THIS GREAT PRIVILEGE EVEN WHILE HERE ON EARTH. DAVID UNDERSTOOD THIS GREAT PRIVILEGE & DECLARES THAT THERE IS ETERNAL JOY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD FOREVER!

“Therefore, my heart is glad and my whole being rejoices; my body also rests securely. For you will not abandon me to Sheol; you will not allow your faithful one to see decay. You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures.” (Psalm 16: 9-11)

2) We will Experience His PROVISION of supernatural strength!

“Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a source of spring water; even the autumn rain will cover it with blessings. They go from strength to strength; each appears before God in Zion.” (vv. 5-7)

NOW, TAKE NOTE THAT THE PSALMIST IS TEACHING US IN THESE VERSES SEVERAL IMPORTANT BLESSINGS WHEN OUR “STRENGTH IS IN THE LORD” (“whose strength is in you”) OR WHEN WE DRAW OUR STRENGTH FROM THE LORD BY COMING TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP AT THE TEMPLE (“PILGRIMAGE”)!

a) WE WILL BE ABLE TO PASS THROUGH OR OVERCOME LIFE’S DARKEST & SADDEST MOMENTS!

“As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a source of spring water; even the autumn rain will cover it with blessings.”
(v. 6)

“VALLEYS OF BACA” MEANS “VALLEYS OF WEEPING”! BY WORSHIPPING THE LORD & FOCUSING OUR EYES ON THE LORD, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PASS THROUGH THESE TIMES OF WEEPING! ARE YOU WEEPING TODAY IN THE INSIDE? PTL! YOU ARE HERE TODAY FOR AS YOU FOCUS YOUR HEART ON THE LORD & DRAW STRENGTH FROM HIM THROUGH WORSHIP, YOU WILL OVERCOME THIS TIME OF YOUR WEEPING!

b) WE WILL BE ABLE TO TURN THESE “VALLEYS OF ‘WEEPING’” INTO “VALLEYS OF BLESSING”!

“As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a source of spring water; even the autumn rain will cover it with blessings.”
(v. 6)

“Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” (Isa. 43: 19)

CHURCH/FRIENDS, NOT ONLY THAT WE WILL PASS THROUGH OR OVERCOME THESE TIMES OF WEEPING IN OUR LIFE BUT WE WILL BE ABLE TO TURN THEM INTO TIMES OF BLESSINGS! THRU GOD'S SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION OR STRENGTH, THE LORD WILL CAUSE THIS TIME OF WEEPING INTO A TIME OF BLESSING! AND THE KEY IS ACCORDING TO THIS PSALM IS WORSHIPING & FOCUSING ON THE LORD, DEEP LONGING & DRAWING STRENGTH FROM THE LORD!

c) WE WILL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FINISH OUR PILGRIMAGE ON THIS EARTH!

“They go from strength to strength; each appears before God in Zion.” (vv. 5-7)

TAKE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT ONLY BE ABLE TO PASS THROUGH/OVERCOME THESE TIMES OF WEEPINGS, AND BE ABLE TO TURN THEM INTO TIMES OF BLESSINGS, BUT WE WILL BE ABLE TO FINISH OUR PILGRIMAGE OR RACE AS THE APOSTLE PAUL CALLED IT IN ROMANS 12!

***“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off [e]were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”
(Heb. 11: 13)***

NOW, TAKE NOTE THAT THESE BELIEVERS HAVE LEARNED TO FIXED THEIR EYES ON THE LORD. THE PHRASE “WHOSE STRENGTH IS ON YOU” MEANS THAT THEY DRAW THEIR STRENGTH FROM THE LORD THRU FAITHFUL WORSHIP/PILGRIMAGE TO THE TEMPLE.

THEREFORE, ARE WE A FIXER? ARE OUR EYES FIX ON THE LORD? ARE WE COMMITTED & FAITHFUL IN OUR WORSHIP OF THE LORD, PRIVATELY & CORPORATELY? MAGANDA RIN PALANG MAGING FIXER. SABIHIN MO SA KATABI MO. “FIXER KA BA?” WHY? BAKIT? BECAUSE IN GOD'S ECONOMY OR IN SPIRITUAL REALM, “FIXERS ARE FINISHERS!”

3) We will **EXPERIENCE** the Lord's **PROMISE** of Protection & Blessings!

*“Lord God of Armies, hear my prayer; listen, God of Jacob. Selah
9 Consider our shield, God; look on the face of your anointed one.
10 Better a day in your courts than a thousand anywhere else. I would
rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than live in the
tents of wicked people. **11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield.
The Lord grants favor and honor; he does not withhold the good
from those who live with integrity.** 12 Happy is the person who trusts
in you, Lord of Armies!”*

THIRD & LASTLY, IN VERSES 10-12, THE PSALMIST GAVE US ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON FOR HIS DEEP LONGING TO WORSHIP THE LORD & BE IN HIS PRESENCE -- WE WILL EXPERIENCE THE LORD'S PROMISE OF PROTECTION & BLESSINGS! NOW, WHAT ARE THESE PROMISES?

a) FIRSTLY, THE LORD PROMISES TO BE OUR **SUPER PROTECTOR!** HE WILL BE OUR “SUN”/”LIGHT” AS WELL AS OUR “SHIELD”!

*“Better a day in your courts than a thousand anywhere else. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than live in the tents of wicked people. **For the Lord God is a sun and shield...**”
(vv. 10-11)*

I DISCOVERED THAT PILGRIMS AT THAT TIME EXPERIENCE HARSH ELEMENTS OR WEATHER AND SO THEY NEED THE “SUN/LIGHT” DURING COLD & DARK DAYS IN ORDER TO COMFORT THEM IN THEIR TRAVEL. AND THEY ALSO NEED A “SHIELD/COVER” FROM ENEMIES & DANGERS THAT AWAIT THEM ALONG THE WAY.

CHURCH/FRIENDS, WE TOO NEED THE LORD TO BE OUR “SUN” & “SHIELD” IN OUR SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TODAY. WE NEED THE SUPER PROTECTION OF GOD. WE NEED HIM TO BE OUR “SUN/LIGHT” TO COMFORT US AS WELL AS A “SHIELD” TO PROTECT US FROM OUR ENEMIES FROM WITHIN & WITHOUT. AND THE PSALMIST TEACHES US HERE THAT THE LORD WILL BE OUR COMFORT & COVERING AS WE MAKE HIM THE STRENGTH OF OUR

HEART, AS WE DRAW STRENGTH FROM HIM THRU DEEP & HEARTFELT WORSHIP!

b) SECONDLY, THE LORD PROMISES TO BE OUR BLESSER OF FAVOR & HONOR!

“The Lord grants favor and honor; he does not withhold the good from those who live with integrity. Happy is the person who trusts in you, Lord of Armies!” (vv. 11-12)

NOW, LIKE HIS OTHER PROMISES, IT HAS CONDITIONS! WHAT ARE THESE?

“The Lord grants favor and honor; he does not withhold the good from those who live with integrity. Happy is the person who trusts in you, Lord of Armies!” (vv. 11-12)

INDEED, HAPPY OR BLESSED IS THE PERSON WHO MAKES THE LORD THE FOCUS OF HIS HEART, THE ONE WHO TRUSTS HIM WITH ALL HIS HEART BECAUSE THE LORD PROMISES THEM HIS COMFORT & PROTECTION AS WELL AS HIS FAVOR & BLESSINGS! WILL BE UPON THEIR LIFE!

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

(1) BROTHERS & SISTERS & FRIENDS, WHAT IS THE ONE DESIRE, THE DEEP LONGING & DESIRE OF OUR HEART TODAY? WHAT IS THE PASSION OF OUR HEART? WHAT CONSUMES OUR TOTAL BEING TODAY? IF WE CAN TAKE A PEEK INTO THE CONTENT OF OUR HEART, WHAT WILL WE SEE THERE? IS IT THE LORD OR SOMETHING ELSE?

IF IT IS NOT THE LORD, THEN WE ARE NOT OBEYING HIS COMMAND. WE ARE NOT LOVING HIM WITH ALL OUR HEART, WITH ALL OUR SOUL, WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH! HE WANTS US TO MAKE HIM THE VERY PASSION & DESIRE OF OUR HEART! WHY? BECAUSE ACCORDING TO DAVID & THIS PSALMIST THE LORD IS THE STRENGTH OR POWER OF OUR LIFE! HE IS THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH OR POWER!

(2) WHAT IS THE STRENGTH OF OUR HEART TODAY? WHERE DO WE DRAW OUR STRENGTH IN OUR DAILY STRUGGLE WITH SIN & TEMPTATIONS AS WELL AS WITH TRIALS & TESTINGS OF LIFE? IS IT FROM THE LORD OUR GOD THRU OUR DISCIPLINE OF THE GOD'S WORD & PRAYER & WORSHIP OR FROM OUR OWN WISDOM & STRENGTH?

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your [flesh, and strength to your bones. Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Pro. 3: 5-10)

FROM THE PSALMIST, WE LEARN TODAY THAT WHATEVER IS THE FOCUS OF OUR HEART IS THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH! IF THE FOCUS OF OUR HEART IS TO WORSHIP THE LORD THEN THE LORD WILL BE THE STRENGTH OF OUR HEART! BUT IF IT IS SOMETHING ELSE, THEN THAT SOMETHING ELSE IS THE STRENGTH OF OUR HEART & LIFE! AND HERE IS WHERE MOST OF OUR PROBLEMS LIES – THE LORD IS NOT FULL FOCUS OF OUR HEART OR TO PUT IT IN ANOTHER WAY - HE IS NOT THE KING & RULER SITTING AT THE THRONE ROOM OF OUR HEART! SOMETHING ELSE IS SITTING THERE – MONEY, WORK/CAREER, SPOUSE/FAMILY, PLEASURE/ HOBBY, ETC. WHAT IS THIS IN YOUR LIFE, TODAY?

(3) ARE YOU IN A “VALLEY OF WEEPING” TODAY? ARE YOU GRIEVING INSIDE BECAUSE OF A TRIAL OR CRISIS YOU ARE FACING TODAY?

IF YOU ARE NOT YET A BELIEVER & FOLLOWER OF JESUS, THEN YOU NEED TO PLACE YOUR TRUST IN JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR & GOD! REPENT & BELIEVE THAT HE DIED FOR YOU & HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE YOU.

IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER, THEN YOU NEED TO APPLY OR APPROPRIATE OR CLAIM THE PROMISES OF TRUTHS & THE PROMISES OF THIS PSALM IN YOUR LIFE!

- (a) REFOCUS OUR HEART TODAY! (REPENT & RETURN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE – THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**
- (b) RE-ARRANGE YOUR LIFE’S PRIORITIES! MAKE THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING IN YOUR LIFE! MAKE THE LORD & HIS KINGDOM NUMBER ONE IN YOUR LIFE!**
- (c) RESOLVE TO TRUST THE LORD’S PROMISE – THAT HE WILL SUPPLY YOU THE SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH TO TURN THIS “VALLEY OF WEEPING” INTO A “VALLEY OF BLESSINGS”**