

A Desire To Be Where God Is

DAVID

Psalm 84

1 How lovely are Your tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!
2 My soul yearns, yes, even pines and is homesick for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out and sing for joy to the living God.

"Your tabernacles" / "courts of The Lord"

- The place where God is. The place where He dwells/lives. The place where He is and will always be found. Where God can be communed with.
- It is The Lord's place that is lovely. Not man's interpretation/creation.

"My soul yearns/longs, yes, even faints"

- David's whole heart and desire were for the presence of God. He was desperate.
- *Psalm 42:1 As the deer pants and longs for the water brooks, so I pant and long for You, O God.*
- David is craving The Lord. It is all His thought and there is nothing else that He desires. There is nothing else that is so important to Him.

Psalm 84

4 Blessed (happy) are those who dwell in Your house and Your presence; they will be singing Your praises all the day long. Selah

"they will be singing your praises all the day"

- Truly those in live in the presence of God are rejoicing evermore and giving thanks in all things. It's like a litmus test... If you want to know those people who are living in the presence of God, look to see the ones who are rejoicing and singing The Lord's praises all day long! It's a lot easier to find those who aren't living there!
- But understand this principle... Those who live in the presence of God are rejoicing!! They are joyfully singing His praises from the depths of their hearts! They are NOT just singing songs! They are declaring HIM! God's people today are in desperate need to understand the difference between praising and performing! God inhabits our praises but abhors our performances!
- *"The only reason we don't have the spirit of rejoicing is because of unbelief.... If I'm not rejoicing, it's because of unbelief." – David Wilkerson*

Psalm 84

5 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

"in whose heart are the highways to Zion" / "whose hearts are set on pilgrimage"

- His heart is not settled anywhere other than The Lord's presence. His heart is set on pilgrimage, on setting off and getting to The Lord's House! In giving Himself wholly to getting to The Holy Place.
- The way to Zion is in his heart! The highways, the map, the route are in His heart! His heart knows The Way! He is familiar with the beauty and glory and whenever he leaves, he only wants to return.

Psalm 84

10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand [anywhere else]; I would rather be a doorkeeper and stand at the threshold in the house of my God than to dwell [at ease] in the tents of wickedness.

"a day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else"

- The choice to spend a thousand years in paradise with all that my flesh could desire is utterly eclipsed by the opportunity to spend just one day in God's house!
- When reading this most people will picture Heaven, the throne room, the light and colour of God's visible glory... But this is not what David is talking about. David is talking about the courts of the Tabernacle. He is talking about Zion and the place of worship. He is talking about the place where God dwells among His people.
- We ought to take the time to understand David's heart for the place of worship. In His day it was a physical place where the people gathered, together unto God. David loved and longed for this place. This place where God could be communed with, enjoyed and worshipped. How much do we love the place of worship? Whether it be the communal gathering of God's people to commune and worship together or our quiet place with The Lord. Do we forsake all else to be with Him? Can we say that a day gathered together unto God like this is better than a thousand anywhere else? How precious is the place of communion with God to us?

"I would rather be a doorkeeper and stand at the threshold... than to dwell at ease"

- I'd rather be at the outskirts of God's house, serving at the lowest position, not even able to enter in... A doorkeeper at the threshold is not entering the house but even here is preferable to any earthly/fleshly "paradise".
- God's presence is not found or enjoyed in earthly comfort and ease. His communion and fellowship are never found in the tents of the wicked. The Lord won't be found in laziness and provision for the flesh. We will find Him when we seek for Him with all our hearts! *Jeremiah 29:13 And you shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart.*
- I don't feel I'm even worthy to do that.

We see here how precious The Lord is to David and how much he loves Him and desires to be with Him. Continually, day by day, David's whole being is longing to be with The Lord. We must not believe that David feels this way because The Lord gave him a special heart. David learned to trust The Lord, he grew in faith and experience gained through faith resulted in an intimate love for God's presence.

MOSES

Exodus 33

11 And the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend....

*...
13 Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favour in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You [progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favour in Your sight...*

*...
15 And Moses said to the Lord, If Your Presence does not go with me, do not carry us up from here!*

16 For by what shall it be known that I and Your people have found favour in Your sight? Is it not in Your going with us so that we are distinguished, I and Your people, from all the other people upon the face of the earth?

*...
18 And Moses said, I beseech You, show me Your glory.*

COMMUNION: "And The Lord spoke to Moses"

- At this point Moses has been walking in obedience with The Lord for quite some time and they have already accomplished so much! He has lived and walked in communion with The Lord ever since their interaction at burning bush! He has practiced communion with God, He has proved The Lord through faith and obedience. Moses, like David, learned to trust The Lord through faith and obedience and developed a deep, consuming love for God.

WAY: "show me now your way"

- When Moses says "if I have found grace/favour in your sight" he is not asking a question but making a statement. He knows with certainty that He has found grace and favour with The Lord and so with faith and trust in God's love and tenderness he makes this request.
- Even after all that he had seen and experienced, after all that had been revealed to him, Moses makes this request to see God's way; to know God with a deeper intimacy. Moses is asking for more than a name (I AM), He is asking to know God's heart and character. Moses had been with The Lord in the mountain. He had communed with God and lived in His presence. He had already had the incredible revelation of The Law and understood the commandments as the way in which they were to live. This request was for so much more than a moralistic teaching.
- Moses is clear about his reason for asking... He desires to understand more of God's heart and to walk in the way of God's blessing. It is said so simply "That I may know you". Moses saw past The Law and desired to see God's heart, His desire and His being... Moses desired to know The Lord far more intimately than The law could allow. Moses looked beyond The Law to know the heart that would keep it lovingly and perfectly. Moses was not interested in moral perfection, his whole heart and desire was to know God more intimately. Moses was enamoured by God, all his desire was for The Lord and His beauty/glory! He was so in love with God and he longingly desired more and more.
- Many people today are caught up in legalism or licentiousness. They judge themselves by their own interpretation of The Law and determine that if they keep to some rules they are in "good standing" but that is not the heart that God desires or delights in! Where are those who are so in love with The Father that all their heart is set on knowing Him more?!

Psalm 86

11 Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk and live in Your truth; direct and unite my heart [solely, reverently] to fear and honour Your name.

12 I will confess and praise You, O Lord my God, with my whole (united) heart; and I will glorify Your name forevermore.

PRESENCE: "is it not in Your going with us"

- *Wesley: He speaks as one that dreaded the thought of going forward without God's presence.*
- To better understand this plea, consider how long Moses had lived without God's presence. Consider his first 80 years, 40 in Egypt, 40 in the wilderness... Moses recognised and understood the difference between being one of God's people and walking in God's presence.
- *GILL: Moses could not forbear expressing himself after this manner, to show the high esteem he had of this blessing, and how worthless and insignificant everything else was without it; that even Canaan, the land of rest promised, was nothing in comparison of it: it is not much matter where we are, or what we have, if God is not with us; but if he grants his presence, the greatest hardships in a wilderness are made easy, and difficulties are got through with pleasure;*
- Is there a similar heart cry in us? Has the same desire and craving for The Lord's continuous presence developed in us.
- What is it that distinguishes us? Are we known as people who walk/live in the presence of God?

GLORY: "show me Your glory"

- The progression of this conversation is just so beautiful. We have a type/shadow of the Born-Again believer's life. There is the initial communion and relationship. There is the learning to walk and trust, the increase of faith and proving God's word. Then there is the cry to learn God's way and walk more in step with His word. A deeper gratitude, appreciation and love is developed and a craving for God's presence and for His glory!
- It almost feels as though this is said in loving compulsion. The conversation has been so intimate and suddenly Moses just desires to see so much more of The Lord!
- Moses wasn't asking for a light show or a mere display of power. Moses understood that The Lord had a specific glory to share. As a Hebrew Moses was clinging to the promise in *Genesis 3:15* "...He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel." Moses understood, just like Job that there was a greater plan for the Salvation and Redemption of men's Souls. I believe Moses had some understanding of the plan and purpose of God and he asked to see the end, the final glory and victory of God.
- We now have the revelation of that glory! But even with the full canon of God's word we still only "see through a glass darkly" *1 Corinthians 13:12*. Is there a longing in our hearts to perceive in greater measure the glory of God? Do we have a desperate craving in our hearts for The Lord to reveal more of Himself? Do we understand all that Moses went through before he made such a plea?

Moses' heart is not content with His current knowledge of God's works but he has a craving to know God's heart. He has had a glimpse of the glory, love and mercy of God and he longs to know more. Both David and Moses had special intimacy with God. They knew Him. They wrote divinely inspired scriptures. Yet, with all their hearts they longed to know God more. They yearned to be in His presence. They longed to be with Him!

THE BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER

Psalm 84

1 How lovely are Your *tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!
2 My soul yearns, yes, even pines and is homesick for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out and sing for joy to the living God.

1 Corinthians 3

16 Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

2 Corinthians 6

16 What agreement can exist between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people."

- We are His tabernacles! We are his courts!

- We have become so familiar with the fleshly head knowledge of this truth that we fail to comprehend by faith the reality of it! We are content with understanding the bare minimum! There is no consideration or seeking to understand what such a truth means on a personal, practical level. We take for granted that God is with us but seem to forget that He is within us! We live according to our own understanding, led by our own desires. Think about it... Do you truly believe that the same God of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah and David lives within you? Do you believe that the same God lives within you but lost all His power, holiness and sovereignty? What God do you have living within you? Is it Almighty, Sovereign Jehovah or a god of your own imagination that makes you feel more comfortable?

- There seems to be a disparity in understanding... We read about the presence and power of God in the Old Testament and there is a sense of awe and wonder as we read of His mighty works and miraculous testimonies, but we fail to understand that this same God, with His same holiness, power and love lives within His people! Our lives are the proof of our faith! If we truly believed, then we would truly live!

John 14

20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

- We are familiar with these verses... But do we take time to contemplate and meditate on the truth of them? Is there a craving/longing in our hearts to grow in faith and press in to all that this means? Is there a hunger and a thirst to know Him more, to walk in His ways and to see His glory?

- Some other marvellous truths to spend time contemplating... "As much as The Father accepts Christ His Son, I am accepted in the same power and majesty." / "God sees me just as He sees His own Son." / "The evidence of faith is rest. Quiet, unassuming, reassuring, childlike faith." – David Wilkerson

- I exhort and plead with you to search your hearts... Do you have a longing to know God? Are you content with your spiritual life as it is or do you truly hunger, thirst and crave to know The Lord more? Are you pleading with God as His servants did? This kind of question can't be answered verbally. The answer is in the evidence of your testimony.

- Our Heavenly Father is longing for intimacy with us. The same intimacy that He enjoys with His son. Do you believe that? He is longing to set His glory upon us and to have His testimony in our lives. The thing that will limit or hinder His power is our faith and obedience. Are we willing to believe that Jesus is all that He says He is in us?

How desperate are we for Jehovah's presence and testimony? Are we willing to enjoy, by faith, the presence of God? Are we willing to believe that the Almighty, Creator God is longing to have HIS testimony and glory through us?

Oswald Chambers: "Jesus has prayed nothing less for us than absolute oneness with Himself as He was one with the Father. Some of us are far off it, and yet God will not leave us alone until we are one with Him, because Jesus has prayed that we may be"

Psalm 90

1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place and our refuge in all generations [says Moses].

Psalm 91

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].

2 I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust!

"He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God"

- It's one thing to acknowledge that God's people fellowship with Him but there is no reason that we can't know Him as Abraham, Moses or David did! Consider what that would look like in your life!

- Can we say with David, MY refuge and MY fortress?

*Notice the plural "tabernacles". There was only one official tabernacle/dwelling place of God... But we can see how David loved the "tabernacles", and this would speak of the body of Christ. How lovely are the lives and testimonies of those with whom God dwells. How lovely it is to be in their presence and to fellowship with Christ in them. How lovely is the gathering of God's tabernacles.