

Homesick

PSALM 84

¹How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD Almighty!

²My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

³Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.

⁵Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

⁶As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.

⁸Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.

⁹Look on our shield, O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.

¹⁰Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.

¹²LORD Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

How to get close to God:

1 _____

*See also Psalms 27:4; 42:1-2;
Philippians 3:8-14*

2 _____

*See also Psalms 119:19; Hebrews
11:13; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 John 2:15*

3 _____

*See also Psalms 24:3-4; Isaiah
59:2; Matthew 5:8; John 14:21, 23*

4 _____

*See also Psalms 108; John 20:29;
2 Corinthians 5:7*

What pilgrims experience: *Isaiah 26:3; John 14:21, 23, 27; 15:11; Romans 5:5;
15:13; Philippians 2:1; James 4:8*

What awaits us at the end of our pilgrimage: *Psalms 16:11; Luke 24:43; 1
Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 4:2-6; 7:15-17; 21:3-4, 9-23; 22:3-5*

Transformed by the Truth

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever experienced *sehnsucht*? If so, when and where?
2. Read Psalm 84:2. Can you relate to the psalmist's yearning for God? What are some things you can do to intensify that yearning?
3. Read Psalm 84:5. What is the evidence in your life that you are either a settler or a pilgrim? How can you fight against the urge to make yourself at home in this world?
4. Read Psalm 84:11. Would you describe your Christian walk as "blameless"? Why or why not? In what way is the Holy Spirit leading you to be more obedient to God?
5. Read Psalm 84:12. When have you chosen to trust God despite bewilderment? What difference does stubborn faith make in your relationship with God?