

People OF Praise
BLESSINGS FROM THE PSALTER
PSALMS SERIES

Longing To Be Near God

Psalm 84

June 28, 2105

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. It is natural to want to be near the ones you love.
- B. That's especially true when the One we love is God Himself.
- C. Psalm 84 is a psalm by the Sons of Korah reflecting their deep desire to be near God.

Those who truly love God long to be near God.

II. WHERE CAN WE EXPERIENCE THAT KIND OF CLOSENESS WITH GOD?

A. People who love God long to experience His presence in their worship. *(Ps 84:1-4; 10)*

1. When you love someone you long to be wherever they are.
2. For the Sons of Korah that meant the temple in Jerusalem where God's presence was in the Holy of Holies. *(Psalm 82:1-4)*

Psalm 80-99

3. So great was their longing for God that they declared one day in God's house was better than a thousand elsewhere. *(Ps 84:10)*
4. God doesn't live in buildings made by human hands but He lives in the life of every person who believes and receives Him.
 - a. Every believer individually is the temple of God. *(1 Corinthians 3:16-17)*
 - b. When believers come together to worship they are a temple in which God dwells. *(Ephesians 2:19-22)*
 - c. That's why in corporate worship we can often experience God's presence in a powerfully different way. *(Matthew 18:20)*
5. The early church loved to worship and experience God's presence. *(Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 84:1-4,10)*

B. People who love God long to experience His presence in their hearts. *(Ps 84:5-12)*

1. Circumstances and trials can steal the joy and sense of God's presence from your heart.
2. That's why we need to know God and the reality of His presence so that nothing will steal our devotion or the strength we find in God. *(Psalm 73:25-26)*
3. The Sons of Korah found great strength in remembering God is not confined to a building but was with them to strengthen them in every situation. *(Ps 84:5-7; Isa 35:7-10)*
4. God never intended to dwell permanently in a temple of stone.
5. He lives in our hearts so He can be with us now and forever. *(Psalm 46:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:16-18; Psalm 84:11-12)*

III. CONCLUSION