

Psalm 84

Psalms 84:1-2 [New King James] *“How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”*

To a true Christian the sanctuary of the Old Testament is replaced by the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1 Corinthians 3:16 [New King James] *“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”*

This refers to both the individual and the collective group of true Christians, not a physical building of any kind.

Romans 8:5-9 [New King James] *“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”*

Any human being who does not have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, actively at work in them, they are not a true Christian.

[Please download and study the articles on this website under the main heading ‘Holy Spirit’ to clarify the essential active indwelling of Holy Spirit in our lives.]

1 Peter 1:3-5, 10-12 [New King James] *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” ... “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things which angels desire to look into.”*

Not all were blessed with the presence of the “*Spirit of Christ*” in the Old Testament, but it will eventually be given to all human beings who have ever lived, [**Joel 2:28-29**].

Psalms 84:3-4 [New King James] *“Even the sparrow has found a home, 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. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah”*

This great desire of those in the Old Testament to be in the presence of the Creator God, by being in the symbol of His presence, the Temple, must be transferred to us in a desire for the presence of the Creator God being in us through the active presence of the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 84:5-8 [New King James] *“Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah”*

Our pilgrimage in life will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in us, as He opens our mind and heart to the truth of God's purpose for all human beings, present and future, [John 16:13].

Psalms 84:9 [New King James] *“O God, behold our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed.”*

In a direct sense the communion of the Psalmist, as with every true Christian, depends on the continued favour of God's anointed King, referring directly to the Person of Jesus Christ.

Psalms 84:10-12 [New King James] *“For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!”*

The Hebrew word translated “courts” is “châtsar” referring to a place separated from the rest of the world.

It is **not** a house that is the Psalmist's delight so much as presence of the Occupant, loved for nature as light, protection, grace [or mercy] and a future glory, Hebrew “kâbôd” meaning splendour and honour.

All this comes to each of us as we trust and have faith in our Creator God.

This presence [“courts”] is found with our prayers and the study of God's Word, the Christian Bible, both of which are to be in a place separated from this world, not public prayers and public reading of scripture.

Matthew 6:5-13 [New King James] *“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”*

When we consider this “model” prayer, **not** one to be continually repeated [verse 7], we see the main thrust is –

- a) The coming of God's Kingdom, rulership by Jesus Christ throughout all the earth, [verse 10].
- b) And our physical and spiritual preparation to be a part of that Kingdom.

Matthew 6:33 [New King James] *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

This is why we are throughout every part of our life to “seek first the Kingdom of God.”

The guidelines for a very good start and continual attitude of mind is found in Paul's words to the Christians in Rome who were living in a very evil world.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning whole life, physical body, mind and human spirit, [**Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Proverbs 20:27**].

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Then the Holy Spirit will re-educate us to create in us a new being that will be acceptable to a Holy Creator God.