

# A HEART THAT IS BLESSED BY GOD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PSALM 84

1 If you could have one wish come true regarding your Christian life, what one thing would you yearn for?

⚙️ *What do you think the writer of Psalm 84 longed for most?*

2 Think of an instance in your life when you were separated from the comforts of home for an extended period of time.

♥️ *Did that time of separation expose any areas of your life where your heart had grown indifferent or insulated from the blessings that you experience when you are at home?*


♥️ *How might the same principle apply to being distant from God, away from his presence?*

3 In Psalm 84 we are taught by the Sons of Korah (a group from the tribe a Levi who served God's people as they worshiped in the temple). They were separated from the presence of God in the temple, and it was during their exile that they express a longing to know and experience the knowledge and blessing of the Lord. It was their separation from home that exposed a vital connection between orientation of the heart and experiencing the knowledge and blessing of God.

♥️ *Can you identify any areas of your life where you sense your heart has grown less responsive to the Lord?*

⚙️ *Can you identify a season in your life when you felt like your worship and service to God seemed to reap discontentment and emptiness rather than blessing, fulfillment, and joy?*

4 Jesus makes it very clear in Matt. 5:6 that there is a blessing that follows a proper spiritual appetite. **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.”**


 Do you think there is a connection between your spiritual appetite (desires of your heart) and your experience of the blessing of God? Why or Why not?

5 **Read the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32).** What is significant about the older brother’s response (verse 24-32)? Why didn’t he join the celebration of the return of his lost brother? How do you think the orientation of his heart affected his ability to experience the blessing of celebration?

6 **Under the Old Covenant, the Israelites would go to the tabernacle or temple to meet with God.** That was the place where they could encounter the immediacy of his presence. But as people who live under the New Covenant, we experience some new realities. Read the following texts and describe the blessings associated with God’s presence in and among his people today. Read I Cor. 3:16; I Cor. 6:19; Ephesians 2:19-22; I Peter 2:4-5. Write down some of your insights below, and be prepared to share some of the blessed implications of what you learn.

7 **In Psalm 84:6 the Psalmist includes the idea of passing through the “Valley of Baca” (an arid stretch of desert that represents a valley of hardship in one’s life).** As people make their way through the difficult terrain the Lord blesses them with showers that collect into pools of water. God literally turns a difficult pilgrimage into a time of blessing. Some people’s personalities tend to always look with negativity toward the hardships of life.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

 Share with the group an instance when you experienced that the strength of God was actually found in the dry valley of your life? How could someone grow in their ability to dig blessings out of hardships? Mine some insights from 2Cor 12:7-10 with Paul’s experience of weakness.

8 **If someone challenged you that Psalm 84:11 (“no good thing”) is not true, how would you defend it?**

9 **What does it mean to you that you will dwell in the house of the Lord in the future?** What connections might there be between the hope of the Psalmist and the hope of the disciples about Jesus preparing a house in John 14:1-3?

 What is the particular blessing of dwelling in the house of God?

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