

**November 26, 2017**

**Series:** Authentic: Living Life through the Psalms

**Title:** All Good Things/Thriving in the Days Ahead

**Text:** Psalms 84:1-12

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Psalm 84:1–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! <sup>2</sup> My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. <sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. <sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion. <sup>8</sup> O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! <sup>9</sup> O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

### **Introduction:**

This passage is a companion to Psalms 42 and 43 mainly because it expresses the same yearning for the formal place of Worship.

More importantly, I think this Psalm gives us revelation of how to thrive in the days ahead, regardless of what's happening in the world.

This Psalms is arranged into three sections

1. Verse 1-4 – Blessed are those who dwell in your house
2. Verse 5-8 – Blessed are those whose strength is in you
3. Verse 9-12 – Blessed are those who trusts in you

Who are the people/Christians who will thrive in the days ahead:

### **I. Those who seek rest in the Presence of God**

- a. Verse 1 – How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty!

What's the attraction for the house of God. It's the fact that God dwells there. It is the PRESENCE of God in the tabernacle that makes it lovely.

A place or dwelling is made attractive only because someone or something of value lives there.

**Psalms 16:11 (NKJV)**, "You will show me the path of life; in Your Presence is fullness of joy; At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Q: Why do we gather here?**

**A:** Because, we are called to be pursuers of HIS PRESENCE (not just getting answers to a problem we may have). We want to enjoy the presence of the Lord together.

**Psalms 34:3 (NKJV)** – O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name.

**Matthew 18:20 (NKJV)** “For where two or three are gathered together in MY NAME, THERE I AM in the midst of them.

In one sense God is always with us wherever we go. But there is a special promise of God’s presence when we come together in His name.

Why? Because we are gathered under His authority. We must recognize that it’s His name that makes the difference in the gathering. (No other name...)

We must gather for the right reason with the right focus; it is there when we dwell together in Unity that God commands the blessing on our lives. The Lord comes and meets with us.

We can never lose sight of this, in the days ahead. Today, the temptation is to withdraw and check out, but you must resist this temptation.

You want God’s blessing on your life, keep gathering with the people of God in pursuit of His presence!

In **Psalms 84:2**, we can feel the intensity of the Psalmist’s desire for the presence of God.

Do we have that desire today? Or, is there too much distraction that quenches the fire on the altar on our hearts.

You see, it’s easy to slip in to religious exercises – looking for your favorite song or verse or waiting for someone to preach you “happy.”

God has not called us to do religion but to refresh lives so that they yearn for the presence and power of God with their whole being.

**Matt. 5:6** – “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” [The promise is not to everyone, but for those who hunger and thirst for more of God.]

For hungry people, prayer is not problem to be dealt with  
For hungry people, worshipping God is not a duty to be fulfilled.

For hungry people, gathering with the people of God is not just another thing that they check on the religious box of things to do

So, the first thing that we must ask ourselves if we are going to thrive is “have I lost my first love” or “has my fire gone out?” If so, what do I need to do to get it back!

## II. Rely on the Strength of God (v. 5-8)

**Verse 5** says, “Blessed [What a Joy] are those whose strength is in you; who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.”

If we are going to thrive in the days ahead, we have to have our hearts in the process and be serious about our walk with God.

There must be a sense of intentionality and purpose in our lives. Look at what the Psalms says, “their hearts are set on pilgrimage.”

They learn how to draw upon God’s strength rather than relying on their own.

Verse 6, “As they pass through the Valley of Weeping, they make it a place of springs.”

In all of our lives, there are some valleys and times of weeping, but there is a constant for people who thrive:

- They don’t get stuck in Weeping Valleys, they pass through it. NO one is exempt from going through but when you rely on the strength of God, you pass through it. {Valley of Baca refers more specifically to a tree or shrub that grows in dry places}
- As they pass through that dry difficult valley, they transform it. By relying on God’s strength and His Grace, instead of being bitter, anxious, angry and cantankerous – they transform the environment around them and “make it a place of springs.”

They/We could easily decide that this is too hard – let’s turn back. But the desire for God is too compelling for that. Psalms 84:7 says, “they go from strength to strength.” They make progression as they walk this out.

It takes strength to get up everyday and decide to follow God’s way in doing things but the more you do it, the stronger you get.

How many will decide to finish strong?

## III. Reap the Good Rewards of God

The prayer continues in verse 9 “...look with favor on your anointed one.” Who is the Anointed One? Christ means

“anointed.” We are anointed only because we are “in Him.” Favor comes to us from the Father as He sees us “in Christ.” As He looks with favor on the Christ and sees us in Him, our prayers are answered.

Verse 10 “Better 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.”

Doorkeeper is a lowly position; but life is better in that lowly place living for God and in His favor than to have all the luxury and comfort the world has to offer.

This is the kind of thinking that will get a person through the ups and downs of life. If our delight is in the Lord and the economy is good, that’s a great benefit. If our delight is in the Lord, and the economy is bad, we are not moved because our delight remains constant.

Verse 11 “For the LORD God is a sun and shield...” He will light up our path and He will protect us from the fiery darts of the enemy. He is my Sunshine. He is my Protector.

He is the God of good things. Good things come to those who obey His commands.

## Conclusion:

**BIG IDEA:** It’s All Good because the Lord is on your side