

## How Lovely is your Dwelling Place, oh Lord

(Psalm 84)

Psalm 84 is a beautiful Psalm that expresses the heart-felt longing of the Psalmist to be in the temple/tabernacle, where God has promised to meet with His people. It is very similar in tone to Psalm 42 and they are both ascribed to the Sons of Korah.

Charles Spurgeon wrote the following comments on this Psalm:

*“This Psalm well deserved to be committed to the noblest of the sons of song. No music could be too sweet for its theme, or too exquisite in sound to match the beauty of its language. Sweeter than the joy of the wine press, (for that is said to be the meaning of the word rendered upon Gittith), is the joy of the holy assemblies of the Lord's house; not even the favoured children of grace, who are like the sons of Korah, can have a richer subject for song than Zion's sacred festivals. It matters little when this Psalm was written, or by whom; for our part it exhales to us a Davidic perfume, it smells of the mountain heather and the lone places of the wilderness, where King David must have often lodged during his many wars. This sacred ode is one of the choicest of the collection; it has a mild radiance about it, entitling it to be called The Pearl of Psalms. If the twenty-third be the most popular, the one-hundred- and-third the most joyful, the one-hundred-and-nineteenth the most deeply experimental, the fifty-first the most plaintive, this is one of the most sweet of the Psalms of peace. Pilgrimages to the tabernacle were a grand feature of Jewish life. In our country, pilgrimages to the shrine of Thomas of Canterbury, and our Lady of Walsingham, were so general as to affect the entire population, cause the formation of roads, the erection and maintenance of hostelries, and the creation of a special literature; this may help us to understand the influence of pilgrimage upon the ancient Israelites. Families journeyed together, making bands which grew at each halting place; they camped in sunny glades, sang in unison along the roads, toiled together over the hill and through the slough, and as they went along, stored up happy memories which would never be forgotten. One who was debarred the holy company of the pilgrims, and the devout worship of the congregation, would find in this Psalm fit expression for his mournful spirit.”*

After being away for 3 months from the gathered assembly of God's people, may we treasure and look forward to our gatherings; and come with expectations to meet our blessed Lord, who has promised to meet with us.

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### I. Introduction:

- A Psalm written by one who was deprived of the privilege of gathering with the saints

### II. Exposition: *I was glad when they said to me let us go into the house of the Lord*

#### A. Longing for God (v1-4)

- God's dwelling place is beautiful (:1; Ps 16:11)
- Can't wait to be in His presence (v2; Ps 27:4)
- I envy the birds & those who dwell in your house (v3-4)

#### B. On pilgrimage to God (v5-9)

- Blessed are those whose heart is set on pilgrimage (v6)
  - They have joy in the journey (v6b)
  - They renew their strength (v7a; Is 40:31; 2 Cor 3:18)
  - They will reach their ultimate destination (v7b; Philip 1:6)
- A personal plea to be among the gathered saints (v8)
  - The Lord is our shield for the journey (v9; John 6:39)

#### C. Dwelling with God (v10-12)

- Oh the joy of being in the presence of God (v10; Philip 3:8; Ps 73:5)
  - "I would rather be ...??"
- Our glorious privilege (v11)
  - God is our light and shield (v11a)
  - He gives us grace & glory (v11b; Rom 5:1-2)
  - He will not withhold anything good from us (v11c; James 1:17; Rom 8:28)
- Blessed are those who trust in Him (v12)

### III. Application:

- Overcoming obstacles to making every Sunday a delight