

Any person who is right with God or who is moving in a true direction that is being led by God, regardless of the dispensation, will have a heart that loves to go to the specific place of worship to meet with God and His people. We are not speaking here of never taking a Sunday off, but we are speaking here about a general heart attitude, which for Israel longs to go to the Tabernacle/Temple and for the New Testament believer longs to go to the church to hear the Word of God with a gathering of the people of God. Let me say that one who does not go regularly to corporate worship cannot possibly be right with God and will in fact miss out on many blessings of God.

Just a couple weeks ago there was discussion in Israel about the Temple and about the fact that the Muslim Shrine, “The Dome of the Rock,” is sitting on property that really is part of the Temple property. A few Jewish people want access to that property. There will come a day when that shrine will be demolished and all Israel will worship right at that spot and all Israel will want to go worship.

Now carefully notice from the superscription that this Psalm was written “for the choir director on the Gittith.” Now a “gittith” was a stringed instrument that could beautifully accompany this song. So not only was this Psalm to be taught, but it was also to be sung.

We may also notice that this is “A Psalm of the sons of Korah.” According to I Chronicles 26:1, 12-13 many of the Korahites were given ministry responsibilities in the house of the LORD. We may recall that Korah was a Levite who originally led an uprising against Moses (Num. 16:1-3). As a result, God executed him and his family (16:31-33). It is evident that some of his sons were spared and now, some 400 years later, many from this family were dedicated to God and serving in His Tabernacle. There is a great lesson to be learned from this superscription—**God’s grace is operative for any who serve Him in some ministry capacity and it is not contingent upon a checkered past.**

These sons of Korah saw the importance of corporate worship and what they communicate in this psalm is this:

THE BLESSED MAN OR WOMAN WILL BE ONE WHO TRUSTS IN GOD AND HAS A HEART THAT REGULARLY LONGS AND YEARNs FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP IN A TRUE PLACE OF WORSHIP.

Corporate worship in this dispensation does not take place in the Tabernacle or Temple; it takes place in the Church. One who will be greatly blessed by God will consider the local church to be the most important gathering place on the face of this earth. One who has true “eyes of understanding” will realize how sacred a place the church truly is.

Now as we come to this Psalm there are about twelve reasons why one will be blessed if one has a passion to go to Church:

REASON #1 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because God views the place of worship as His lovely property. **84:1**

Notice the name used in this verse for God “LORD of hosts.” This is a name that means God is totally and completely sovereign over everything in heaven and on earth. Now this sovereign God views places of worship as His dwelling places.

When Jesus was here on earth, He said that when two or three had gathered in His name His very presence was there (Matt. 18:20). This is a staggering thing to think about. God views His people who are gathered in some place of worship as His lovely dwelling place.

Notice the “dwelling places” is plural. This certainly would lend itself to covering the Temple, various synagogues and could even include the churches.

REASON #2 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because the body, soul and heart can joyously sing to the living God. **84:2**

When people are in tune with God, they long to go to corporate worship. One of the best things one depressed can do is to go to a true place of worship. The “living God” is there.

Notice that the soul of one right with God “longs” to go to corporate gatherings. If a person has to constantly be begged or coerced to go to worship, there is no way that one has a soul right with God.

Now one of the things that is involved in corporate worship is singing. It is a great blessing to go to church and sing to the Lord.

REASON #3 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because one finds a home and family. **84:3**

Now what is described here is something that actually did happen. Birds would fly into the Tabernacle/Temple area and would build their nests and lay eggs and give birth to her babies. We actually had that happen when we built the new sanctuary. Birds built nests and had babies and then they left the area.

Now the point of this is not to give us worship data about birds, although I have often wondered how much an animal really knows about God. The point of this is that when people go to corporate worship they find a home and a family and a safe place to worship.

We need to observe that the place of worship was to be a place where children may be raised and taught. God expects the children to go to the same place as the parents and God expects the parents to take those babies and children to the place of corporate worship.

REASON #4 – One who will be blessed by God loves to dwell in the place of corporate worship and praise God. **84:4**

People blessed of God abide and dwell in their place of worship and they have an attitude of always praising God. They love to serve God and maintain close fellowship with God and they are a praise to God. “SELAH”–stop and think about it.

One of the things I have personally been praying about in my own private devotions is that God would let me have close fellowship with Him all of the days of my life. In order to have close fellowship with God, people must be involved in corporate worship.

REASON #5 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because there he finds strength . **84:5**

Strength comes from God and from knowing which highways to take in life. One’s heart will be strengthened when one goes to worship so that he will know which highways lead him to God.

Strength comes from God. That famous prayer often called “the Lord’s prayer” actually prays to God to not lead a person into temptation, but deliver from evil. Now the obvious point is God is the One who can keep one out from any temptation that could lead one into evil. God is the One with the power and the strength.

REASON #6 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because he will be refreshed . **84:6**

The valley of Baca, perhaps known as the valley of weeping, was apparently some place that was known as a waterless place. Now some have stated that they do not think this was a real valley or place; but I am not too sure about that. The point is, some place where one feels dry and stagnant is turned into a place of refreshment. When you feel dry and parched in life, you will find refreshment from your place of worship. You will be strengthened and refreshed by God when you go to corporate worship.

So many people miss this key point. They get depressed and sit home. That will not bring a person out of depression. If you want to be refreshed, go to church and sing the hymns and hear the Word and fellowship with the people. It will be refreshing to you.

REASON #7 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because he will get stronger and stronger . **84:7**

Notice what is said in this verse. Everyone who goes to corporate worship “appears before God.” In other words, God sees every person who goes to corporate worship and He will authorize them to get stronger and stronger. God does have an attendance record that He keeps. God is the One who is able to make one strong and we need to understand that point.

REASON #8 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because this is where God does listen to the prayers of His people. **84:8**

The obvious implication here is that God is ready to hear and answer prayer of one who is regularly going to corporate worship. Two points are brought out about God. **First**—He is the LORD God of hosts, which means He is in sovereign control of everything on earth and in heaven. **Second**, He is the God of Israel.

Corporate worship places are to be places of singing, prayer and ministry of the Word of God. God literally stands ready to answer the prayers of His people when they corporately gather to worship Him. “Selah”—Stop and think about it.

REASON #9 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because at corporate worship, one will see Christ. **84:9**

Now this literally will happen when Jesus Christ returns and will literally and physically be in Jerusalem and in the Temple. At that time, God’s people will literally be able to see the face of Jesus Christ. When one does see the Lord, he will realize that God was the One who was our shield and our protection. There is a tremendous security one gains from going to corporate worship. Even though this has to do with physically seeing Jesus Christ, the fact is when people go to a true church they should certainly see Jesus Christ in the Scriptures. They should realize that their eternal shield is Jesus Christ.

REASON #10 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because corporate worship is more valuable than any place else we go in life. **84:10**

Corporate worship is one thousand times better than anywhere else we go in this world. When we go to corporate worship we leave the wicked world for a while. We leave the filth and the crud behind and we go to a sacred place to encounter God.

No matter what one has gone through in life, the most valuable time we will ever spend on this earth will be the time we spent coming to terms with the Word of God at the church of God. Going to worship is 1000 times more valuable than anything else we will ever do. It is more valuable than any vacation, any seminar, any concert, play or movie. Pick something and nothing compares to the value of corporate worship.

REASON #11 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because of what God gives to that person. **84:11**

There are five specific blessings that are given by God to one who regularly worships God:

- 1) God will give His guidance. He will give him light.
- 2) God will give His guardance. He is a shield of protection.
- 3) God will give His grace. He will grant an abundance of grace to His sinful people.
- 4) God will give His glory. He will grant His people the ability to reflect His glory.
- 5) God will give His good. God will give all kinds of good things to those who regularly worship Him. This whole package of things is given to one who regularly worships Him.

REASON #12 – One who will be blessed by God loves corporate worship because he learns to trust God. **84:12**

Faith and trust come by hearing the Word of God. When one goes to a true place of worship, one will hear the Word of God and when that happens, your faith will be strengthened.

Those who regularly go to church to hear God's Word develop a strong faith that is unmovable.

One who regularly goes into a place of true corporate worship goes right into the blessings of God. When a believer goes to corporate worship, he is not entering a building; he is entering the blessings of God.

That is Psalm 84.