

IDENTIFYING THE HEART FOR GOD

PSALMS 84 1-12

Text: Psalms 84:2

Psalms 84:2 (KJV)

²My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

Introduction:

When we look at the Christian life, especially in today's society, it becomes painfully clear that desiring a heart for God doesn't come natural. Not one Christian in his natural, sinful flesh desires a close relationship with God.

Many Christians are farther away from God today than they have ever been.

If we were honest with ourselves, we would have to admit that from the very first day of our existence, thinking about ourselves has come naturally.

This problem of selfishness is something we battle during our adult lives, even as Christians. Self centeredness has crept into the hearts of many Christians. It's a battle that Christians face every single day.

Maybe you have lost the heart you once had for God. If you truly desire to reclaim that strong desire to know and love the Lord, possibly the best way to begin is by identifying a heart for God.

An individual who truly experienced and identified the heart for God was David.

1. A HEART THAT FELT THE NEED FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

A. David's Desire for God.

Psalms 84:1-2 (KJV)

¹How amiable *are* thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! ²My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

B. David's Intensity for God

Psalms 84:2 (KJV)

²My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

God is not interested in the superficial; He is interested in our hearts.

2. A HEART THAT IS FIXED ON GOD

Psalms 84:5 (KJV)

⁵ Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in thee; in whose heart *are* the ways of them.

Psalms 57:7 (KJV)

⁷ My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

A. We need to determine to fix our heart of godliness

Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV)

⁹ The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Psalms 12:1-2 (KJV)

¹ Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. ² They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: *with* flattering lips *and* with a double heart do they speak.

3. A HEART THAT FOLLOWED GOD THROUGH THE VALLEYS

A. God's provisions in trials

1. Sustaining

Psalms 84:6 (KJV)

⁶ *Who* passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.

2. Strength

Psalms 84:7 (KJV)

⁷ They go from strength to strength, *every one of them* in Zion appeareth before God.