

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

MY HEART AND MY FLESH
CRIETH OUT FOR THE
LIVING GOD
PSALMS 84:1-12

Text: Psalms 84:2

Psalm 84:2

² My 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 naturally.

Not one Christian in his natural sinful flesh desires a close relationship with God.

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

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

We love to think about our own needs and our own desires first, and many have become obsessed with their own significance. This is a battle that Christians face every day.

Do you have the same heart for God and that same tenderness for God today that you had the day you trusted Him as your Saviour, or has the old nature hardened your heart?

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

One person who truly sought the Lord with his heart and had a heart for God was David.

Notice: He had

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

The Bible describes David as a man after God's own heart. He was a man who had a heart for God. This doesn't mean he was perfect. It means he was a man who sought and longed for the very presence of God.

Note:

A. David's Desire for God

Psalms 84:1-2

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.

David wrote this while in exile. He was away from the place that represented the glory and presence of God.

David had one driving desire: to have the presence of God.

B. David's Intensity for God

Psalms 84:2

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

He said that his heart and flesh cried out for the living God.

When was the last time you said, "I want to know God"?

- I want to pray more fervently.
- I want to seek God more fervently.

- I want to know His presence
- I want His power

David was a man whose heart cried out for the presence of God.

Do we feel the same intensity?

2. A HEART THAT WAS FIXED ON GOD

Not only did David feel the need to be closer to God, he also realized that his heart needed to be fixed on God.

The Bible says in Psalms 84:5:

Psalms 84:5

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

This speaks of the man whose heart is set or fixed on the ways of God; whose heart is determined.

The Psalmist said in Psalms 57:7:

Psalms 57:7

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

Many people live their life after some pursuit, but the greatest pursuit that we can seek is God.

A. We Need to Determine to Fix Your Heart on Godliness.

Our heart will not survive on auto pilot. We must determine to set our eyes upon Jesus and set our affections on things above.

Colossians 3:2

²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

This not only takes dependence on Him, and determination, but it also takes discipline.

Jeremiah 17:9 says:

Jeremiah 17:9

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

God's Word teaches us that our heart is naturally wicked.

If you leave your heart to itself, it will not draw closer to God but it be draw away.

We must be disciplined to guard our heart and set our heart on the things of God.

Psalms 12:1-2

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.

Many live their lives with double hearts. One day they live for God and the next they live for themselves. One day they're devoted, and the next they are deserters.

3. A HEART THAT FOLLOWED GOD THROUGH THE VALLEYS

David was a man whose heart followed God even through the valleys, through times of trials. David remained faithful even when he didn't understand what God was doing in his life.

A. God's Provisions in Trials

Psalms 84:6-7

⁶ Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. ⁷ They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

Baca means: the valley of weeping.

Note Psalms 84:10 & 12

Psalms 84:10

¹⁰ For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Psalms 84:12

¹² O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

1. God sustains us

There were those who would pass through the valley of Baca. Many travelers on their way to the Temple would travel through this dry and difficult valley. It was a strenuous trip, yet God provided for them. God's Word says that they made Baca a well. They determined to make their way to the Temple trusting that God would provide for them along the way.

We must remember that there are going to be valleys in the Christian life. There is going to be times of trials and testing on this journey while seeking a heart for God.

Our temptation in that valley will be to question and lose our heart for God; but, the valley is intended to

draw us closer to God and give us a greater intensity to know God.

It's in the valleys that we learn that God is with us. As we walk through the valley we must remember the truths that God gives to sustain us.

2. God strengthens us

Psalms 84:7

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

The journey through life's valleys grows long at times, and discouragement waits at every turn, but in those moments God gives us the strength.

When God sees our desire for Him and our faith during a time of affliction, He will provide the joy and strength needed to sustain our Christian life.

Psalms 84:12

¹² O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

B. Don't Set Conditions on God

Many times we try to avoid the valley, or we try to make predetermined agreements with God. We should never set conditions on God.

May we determine to seek the Lord with all our heart,
and have a Heart for Him.