

Psalm 84 NRSV

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. *Selah*
Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*
Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.
For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favour and honour.
No good thing does the Lord withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

For Reflection and Prayer:

Was there a word, phrase or image which caught your attention you as you listened to or slowly read the text? Quietly savor this with Jesus.

Notice any felt sense that seems to emerge as you linger with this passage. It might come as a bodily feeling, emotion, metaphor, picture, gesture or sound. See if you can describe it and simply be with it with patient curiosity. Be open to whatever more might emerge.

Perhaps you might want to draw, color or journal your conversation.

As the time of prayer comes to a close, share some quiet moments with Jesus, simply resting safely in his presence.

Psalm 84 Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill

How glorious is your dwelling place,
O Blessed Architect of the universe!
My soul longs, yes, aches
for the abode of the Beloved;
All that is within me sings for joy to the living Heart of Love!

Even as the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nesting place,
where its young are raised within your majestic creation,
You invite us to dwell within your Heart

Blessed are they whose hearts are filled with love,
who sing praises to You with grateful hearts!

Blessed are they who put their strength in You
who choose to share the joy and sorrows of the world.
They do not give way to fear or doubt:
They are quickened by Divine Light and Power;
they dwell within the peace of the Most High.
They go from strength to strength and live with integrity.

O Eternal Lover, hear my prayer;
Give ear, O Divine Comforter!
Forgive what is unholy within me; free me from my illusions!

For a day within the Heart of Love
is more to be desired than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a servant in your dwelling place,
than live in riches among those who do not know Love.
For the Beloved is as radiant as the sun,
as strong as a steel shield,
and invites each one to come, to partake of the Banquet.
Who will accept the goodness of Love?
Who will seek for spiritual treasure?
O Loving Creator of the universe,
blessed are all who put their trust in You.
They bless the world.