

**PSALMS**  
**Book Three**  
**Psalm 84**

*For the director of music. According to gittith. Of the Sons of Korah. A Psalm*

**1. How lovely (“beloved”) is Your dwelling place (or “tents”), O LORD Almighty (“Of Hosts”)! (Ps 26:8)**

**a.** My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh cry out for the Living God. (Ps 42:1-2, Ps 122:1)

**b.** Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young -

- A place near Your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

- Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they are ever praising You. (Heb 13:15)

Selah

**2. Blessed are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage (Lit: “in whose hearts are the ways/highways”) (Gen 15:6, Jer 31:33/Heb 10:16, Lk 6:46-49).**

**a.** As they pass through the valley of Baca (*can be taken as “weeping,” but more likely refers to the balsam tree. It grows well in dry places*), they make it a place of springs (“blessing”); the Autumn rains also cover it with pools. (Heb 12:11)

**b.** They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. (Phil 3:20, Heb 11:13-16, 12:22) - *Our strength is not derived from ourselves but from Him* - 2 Cor 4:7.

**3. Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty (“Hosts”); listen to me O God of Jacob.**

Selah

**a.** Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one. (1 Tim 2:1-7, 1 Pet 2:13-17) - a plea for God to sustain Israel’s king (“anointed”).

**b.** Better is one day in your courts than a thousand [elsewhere]; (1 Chr 9:19 - the Sons of Korah loved their service. Do you love yours? Rom 12:1-8)

- I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

- For the Lord God is a sun and shield. The LORD bestows (“gives, grants”) favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless (“who walk uprightly”).

**c.** O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in You. (Gen 15:1, 6)

## Psalm 84

vs 1-4 The psalm writer begins with a declaration that the dwelling place (either the tabernacle or temple) of God is lovely and the object of his desire. He is one of the Sons of Korah - a Levite tasked with ministry at the house of God. They were singers, musicians, door-keepers, they cared for the temple equipment and assisted the priests. He loves his service. In the church age we are the temple of God's Spirit. We are also gifted and equipped for service. Do we love it, long for it, seek it? Do we realize that all of us are a part? Even the little bird has a place in His temple.

vs 5-7 The writer declares that those who depend on God and focus on Him as they move through life are blessed. The "Valley of Baca" may refer to a dry valley that pilgrims passed through on their way to Jerusalem or it may be a metaphor for life. It is a struggle and short (Ps 90:10). But those whose focus is God will live accordingly. They are pilgrims here and looking for a permanent abode. This world is not their home. God sustains them and provides for them even in the parched places. The believer will arrive safely to their ultimate home.

vs 8-12 He closes with a prayer that God would look with favor on their shield, here meaning the king, the Lord's Anointed. Do you pray for our leaders (1 Tim 2:1-7, 1 Pet 2:13-16)? He goes on to say that it is better to be faithfully serving where God has placed him, than to live his whole life elsewhere. Our greatest fulfillment comes from serving Him with the gifts that we have (such as they are!) where we are. Don't look for "greener grass," serve Him now! He knows us, our needs and desires and will withhold no good thing (Mtt 7:9, Lk 11:11) from us. If He has not fulfilled all your desires, will you trust that He knows better what you truly need?