



“Longing for God”

Psalm 84

“If I have a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the explanation is, I was made for another world.” —C.S. Lewis

Our inconsolable human longing is evidence that we were made to see, savor and show the riches of God’s Glory.

“Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” —C.S. Lewis

HOW TO SATISFY OUR LONGING FOR GOD?

DESIRE vv1-4

- This is a desire for an encounter with a personal living God. (v2 “the living God”) Ps42:1-2, 63:1
- This is a desire to find rest for your restless heart. v3; Matt11:28
- This is a desire for a deep and lasting joy not from God, but in God. v4; Eph5:18-20

DISCIPLINE vv5-9

- It is a journey that begins in our heart going from one degree of strength to another. vv5, 7; 2Cor3:18; Pro4:18; 2Cor4:16
- Three Stages: Repent of no longing for God (Ps73:22) -> Longing for God (Ps42:5) -> Longing for God fulfilled (Ps63:5).
- Suffering gives opportunity for greater levels of maturity and intimacy with God if we don’t give up or forget that God is doing great things. V6; Gal6:7-9; 2Cor5:7

DELIGHT vv 10-12

- A day close to God is better than a thousand days anywhere else. v10a; Ps16:11
- The lowest position with God is infinitely better than living in luxury without Him. v10b; Ps63:3, 90:14; Jer9:23-24
- You can trust His goodness because He always has your best interests at heart! vv11-12; Rom5:10

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. *We are far too easily pleased.*”—C.S. Lewis

Growing Notes

- 1) Read the introduction to this sermon. What are your thoughts and feelings? How have you tried to fill your inconsolable longing with created things rather than the Creator?
- 2) Read Psalm 84. What stands out to you from this Psalm? What would you say is the general tone? What are the three “D” words for satisfying our longing for God and how are they progression and interrelated?
- 3) DESIRE (vv1-4): What is the difference between a general belief in God and a personal encounter with a living God? This is a desire to find rest for your restless heart. Explain. What is the difference between finding joy from God rather than in God?
- 4) DISCIPLINE (vv5-9): How is satisfying our longing for God a journey that begins in our heart? What are the three stages? Where are you in those stages? How can suffering help us?
- 5) DELIGHT (vv10-12): Paraphrase v10a. God’s worst is better than the devil’s best (v10b). Explain. What will happen if we believe the lie that God is holding out on us? Read the last quote by C.S. Lewis. What does he mean that we are too easily pleased? Pray that God would stir up our desires so that we could be more disciplined spiritually and experience greater delight in God.