

Sermon: Blessed to live in God's presence.
Series: *The Blessed Life*.

Scripture: Psalm 84.
Date: August 23, 2026

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) The first four verses of this psalm reflect a deep longing to live *coram deo*, or in the presence of God (for them this was the Temple). Would you say that you live your life before God? Explain your answer. In what ways can you relate to this kind of longing for God's presence?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Three times God is called "the Lord of hosts (armies)" in this psalm. How does this title encourage you, specifically in your desire to live in the presence of God?

b) Read verse 11. What kind of God is described in this verse? How does this connect to his desire to live in our presence?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) In verse nine the psalmists pray that God would look upon his anointed (Messiah). The Israelites are praying for God to give them a Davidic King who can restore the presence of God in the Temple. How does Jesus restore us to the presence of God today? How will he restore us to God's presence in the future? Consider 1 Corinthians 3:16 and the implications of the church being God's temple.

APPLICATION

a) Have you ever experienced the power of a new spiritual habit helping you to grow in your longing for God? For example: committing to a ministry caused you to long for God's strength in order to fulfill that commitment.

b) We said that we practice God's presence through our spiritual habits; we then listed seven spiritual habits from this psalm. Which of these stands out to you? Which requires a new commitment on your part? Which do you see yourself growing in already?

1) Gathering together (v.1-3); 2) Praising God (v.4); 3) Going from strength to strength (v.7); 4) Prayer (v.8); 5) Serving (v.10); 6) Walking uprightly (v.11); 7) Trusting Christ (v.12).

PRAYER

- Praise God for being the God that fights for us and defends us as our shield (v.11).
- Confess your failure to long for the presence of God.
- Thank Jesus for being the Messiah that God can look to (v.9) and thus give us favor and honor (v.11).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to form spiritual habits that lead to a greater longing for God's presence.