

is not fret because of the wicked
 is not be envious
 as they will soon fade like the grass,
 and wither like the green herb.

I trust in the LORD and do good
 so you will live in the land, and enjoy peace
 and he will give you the desires of your heart
 cannot your way to
 trust in him, and he will act.
 he will make your vindication shine like the light,
 and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Psalms
The Loveliness of Home
Psalm 139

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It is the never-interrupted voice of love speaking from eternity and giving life and love wherever it is heard. When I hear that voice, I know that I am home with God and have nothing to fear. As the beloved of my heavenly Father, “I can walk in the valley of darkness: no evil would I fear.”

Henri Nouwen

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First Beatitude
Happy are those who live
in your house, ever singing
your praise.
Psalm 89:4

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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.

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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.

Psalm 84:1-4

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Commentary

- » “Lord of hosts” - 4x - v1,3,8,12
- » “Living God” (v2) – the God who gives life
- » “a House” (v4) – “a home” for the sparrow (v3) – we are the sparrow

Make God Our Centre

- » The sovereign power of the universe and the centre of my personal life
- » The appropriate response of gratitude - make intentional choices of thanks/gratitude

Second Beatitude

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose hearts are the highways to Zion.

Psalm 89:5

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.

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.

Psalm 84:9-12

Strength

- » Comes through assurance, confidence in God
- » It is the movement of faith in time & place
- » 'valley of Baca' (v6) – a thirsty arid place which God fills with rain

Strength from Prayer

- » Conversational prayer in all circumstances
- » Drawing strength from the presence of God
- » Learning to lean on God

Third Beatitude

O Lord of Hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Psalm 89:12

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.

Psalm 84:9-12

Why is one day in God's presence better than a thousand elsewhere?

God is Great

- » A sun & shield for us (v11)
- » A sun gives us life - energy

God is Good

- » God gives us the good things of life to enjoy (v11)

