



Loving God
Psalm 84:1-12
#5 in a series on the Psalms
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Theme: **The Delight Of Loving God Flows Through Discipline.**

What Loving God Looks Like.

1. A deep desire to be in God's presence. (1-2, 5; cf. 23:6; 26:8; 27:4, 8; 61:4; 122:1; 139:7; Hebrews 10:25)
2. Joyful praise to God. (2, 4; cf. 5:11; 16:11; 21:6; 30:4-5; 32:11; 33:1, 3; 42:5, 11; 71:22-23; 95:1-2; John 15:11; 17:13)
3. True happiness. (4, 5, 12; cf. 1:1; 2:12; 32:1; 40:4; 112:1; 119:1, 2; 128:1; 144:15)

How To Grow In Loving God.

1. Settle down, be at home in God's presence. (4, 3, 5b, 10, 11; cf. 15:1; 23:6; 27:4; 61:4; 139:7; 140:13)
2. Rely on God's strength. (5-7, 11; cf. 3:3; 5:12; 18:1-2, 30, 32, 39; 28:7; 46:1; 73:26; 91:4; Philippians 4:13)
3. Trust in God. (12, 8-9; cf. 25:2; 31:6; 33:21; 37:3-65; 52:8; 56:3-4, 11; 125:1; Proverbs 3:5-8)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Read Psalm 84. The writer opens this Psalm by expressing his deep desire to be in God's presence. While the temple was beautiful and uniquely special, it was God he really longed for not just the building. Do you really long, yearn to be with God in quietness, prayer and praise? Do you share King David's priority and passion to dwell in God's presence in all the days and circumstances of your life (see Psalm 27:4)? If not, why not? Remember, this is part of what loving God looks like.

Tuesday. Loving God is also displayed in joyful praise and true happiness. The Psalmist continually, joyfully praised God with his whole being (2b, 4b). He was not on an emotional high nor living in a fantasy world when he wrote this. He undoubtedly suffered his share of *slings and arrows*, yet he continually praised God and was truly happy ("How *blessed*," or *happy*, verses 4, 5, 12). How is this possible? How do you relate praise and happiness to how you feel and what you face? Why should there not be a direct correlation between your situation and your praise and happiness?

Wednesday. Deuteronomy 6:5 tells us "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." We grow in loving God by settling down, being at home in His presence (see verse 4). There is no place, time or circumstance where God is not with us (see Psalm 139:7). Yet, to settle down with God requires making a choice to be holy (see Psalm 15) and to stay in fellowship, in contact with Him. Is being with God for you like the illustration of the birds in verse 3? Is that your true home, center of activity, rest and security? Why is it difficult, at least at times, to stay in the presence of God?

Thursday. Growing in loving God also requires that we rely on His strength, trusting Him. Where is it difficult for you to do that now? God's strength is not just a top up or extra boost for the one who loves Him. God's strength is his/her strength (verse 5). God gives strength, grace, glory and good to those who trust Him, living uprightly. Are you trusting God with all your heart, committing your way entirely to Him and moving forward in His strength today?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at Psalm 55. Read and think through this Psalm as you prepare for our time of worship together.

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