

Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church

# Sermon



# *Drawing Near to God*

Psalm 84

KOH EARN SOO | 20 February 2022



Drawing near to God  
A reflection on Psalm 84

by  
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# What kind of literature are the Psalms?

Emotions and music

My soul longs (Psalm 84:2)

Yes, faints (Psalm 84:3)

In whose heart are the highways to Zion v5



What was he longing for and how  
does he describe it?

The courts of the LORD v2

How lovely is your dwelling place v1

So much so that He envies the sparrow  
and the swallow v3

Blessed are those who dwell in your  
house v4



What was he longing for and  
how does he describe it?

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 dwell in the  
tents of wickedness. (v10)



# The Psalmist is describing a journey and pilgrimage

Pilgrimages can be tiring.  
Early mornings and long distances  
lead to weary travellers.

# The Psalmist is describing a journey and pilgrimage


<sup>6</sup> As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.

# Lessons

The power of intentionality





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# Lessons

What do you long for?

The Psalmist wants to get there but the starting point must be the intention, the desire and the decision to seek and wanting the Presence of God.

# Lessons

The importance of the Presence of God

**Looking forward to 2022**



## Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

# The Presence of God

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## **Exodus 33:14-16** (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses said to Him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."





**Exodus 33:14-16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and with Your people unless You go with us?

**What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"**



## **Psalm 139:1-6 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, You have searched me and You know me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue You know it completely, O LORD. <sup>5</sup> You hem me in--behind and before; You have laid Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

## Psalm 139:7-12 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Where can I flee from Your presence?


<sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, You are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there Your hand will guide me,  
Your right hand will hold me fast.

**<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and  
the light become night around me," <sup>12</sup> even the  
darkness will not be dark to You; the night will  
shine like the day, for darkness is as light to You.**





When darkness seems  
to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging  
grace  
In every high and  
stormy gale  
My anchor holds within  
the veil  
My anchor holds within  
the veil

Christ alone  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong  
In the Saviour's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord  
Lord of all  
He is Lord  
Lord of all

## Psalm 139:13-16 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> **I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.



## Psalm 139:17-18 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> How precious to me are **Your thoughts**,  
O God! How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> Were I to count them, they would  
outnumber the grains of sand.  
When I awake, I am still with You.

## Matthew 1:23 (NIV)

<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will be with child  
and will give birth to a son,  
and they will call Him **Immanuel**"  
--which means, "**God with us.**"

## Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government  
will be on His shoulders.  
And He will be called  
**Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.**



The Psalmist has very clear  
intention to want to draw to God.

What about us?

What do you really want  
in your life?



There are benefits when we are near God

Psalm 84:11-12 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does He withhold from  
those who walk uprightly.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one  
who trusts in You!

And if you are facing  
challenges or storms,  
remember Jesus is Emmanuel  
and God is Present with you.