

INTRODUCTION:

For the last few weeks, we've been in our Vision 2020 series and we said that disciples do three things, right? They ABIDE, CONNECT, and SHARE. I mentioned before that the way disciples do these things is expressed in 5 Gs: God Time, Group Time, Gather Time, Give Time, and Go Time. And I'll mention again that this series is heavily inspired by the work of Pastor Robbie Symons. In the context of *abiding* in Christ, the G is God Time, and God Time should be daily. When Tammy and I lived on Boston Street, and I was stationed at Camp Lejeune and only visited on weekends, it didn't feel like I lived there. It would have been safer to say that I abode at my friend Mark's house, because I rested there Sunday through Thursday. I saw him, his wife, and his kids more than I saw my own. And when I was deployed? I abode in a lovely SWA hut. The point is to truly abide with Christ, you *must* spend time with Him daily. For our God Time text, we will read Psalm 84, and I will be reading from the ESV translation today.

MAIN TEXT (Psalm 84:1-12, ESV)

1How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

2My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

3Even 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.

4Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah

5Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.^b

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

7They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.

8O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

9Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

10For 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.

11For 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.

12O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

BACKGROUND

The Psalms are the songbook of God’s people Israel. These were meant to be set to music and sung. By the way, there’s absolutely nothing wrong with singing being a part of your God Time. So let’s jump right in because there’s no time like God time.

PASSAGE OUTLINE:

1. THERE’S NO TIME LIKE GOD TIME

a. God time is lovely time

i. (84:1-2) How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

ii. “Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness! Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim.”¹

iii. Does your soul long for the Lord? It should!

b. God time is blessed time

i. (84:3-4) 3Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where

¹ John S. B. Monsell. “Worship the Lord” in *The Baptist Hymnal* (Nashville: Convention Press, 1991). 115.

she may lay her young, at your altars,
O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

4Blessed are those who dwell in your
house, ever singing your praise! Selah

- ii. Even animals seek to be closer to their Creator. And they bring their young!
 - iii. The psalmist here recognizes that blessing is to be found in His presence. Where do we go for His presence?
- c. God time is strengthening time
- i. (84:5) Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
 - ii. Without God time, you do not have your spiritual strength replenished. In the same way, if you do not eat, you will eventually run out of physical strength.
 - iii. The highways to Zion: The roads leading to the place where God was worshipped. Again, we do not have to go to Jerusalem to worship God.
- d. God time is refreshing time
- i. (84:6) As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.
 - ii. The Valley of Baca is likely a desert place that people went through in order to get to Jerusalem. Springs and rain would provide a lot of refreshing.
 - iii. By the way, if your argument is that you don't have time, let me assure you that you can do a lot more in less time with God's refreshing than you can in more time without.
- e. God time is inexhaustible time

Last Day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time.” The same could be said of TV.

- g. God time is protection time
 - i. (84:9) Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!
 - ii. (Eph. 6:10-20) Remember the whole armor of God? This language sounds strangely similar.
 - iii. How can you expect God’s protection if you do not avail yourself to His Word?
- h. God time is light time
 - i. (84:11) 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.
 - ii. The Lord is light, so He gives light. Think of a solar yard light. If it doesn’t get exposed to the sun, it won’t have the energy to shine. If it doesn’t get exposed to darkness, it won’t shine.
 - iii. (Robbie Symons) “Don’t let your phone out-charge you!”
- i. God time is receiving time
 - i. (84:11) The Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
 - 1. Again, God time is where you receive these things.
- j. God time is faith-building time
 - i. (84:12) O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!
 - ii. You develop your trust in Him by getting to know Him. You can’t trust someone you don’t know.

- iii. Remember that God time is a dialogue. You pray to God and He speaks to you through His Word and His Spirit.
- k. So, now that we've seen why God time is so important and why God time is like no other time, we will see that now is the time for God time.

2. NOW IS THE TIME FOR GOD TIME

- a. (84:10) 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.
 - i. Do we truly believe this?
 - ii. Would we *really* rather be with God than with the world?
 - iii. If so, why are we so focused on the world and what it has to offer?
- b. (Eph. 5:15-16) Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time because the days are evil.
 - i. Every day that you put off God time is another day that you live as an unwise person in these evil days.
 - ii. Make the most of your time. Remember that God deserves your first and best, not your leftover scraps!
- c. How do I do God time?
 - i. Get a plan. To fail to plan is to plan to fail. There are literally hundreds of Bible reading plans available. And that's just on your phone.
 - ii. Get a place. A quiet place in your house, or out in the woods, or wherever works for you. You may need to experiment until you find a place that works.

- iii. Get a pen. Write down things that God is revealing to you.
- iv. Get a prayer. I don't mean just your list of requests from God. Don't know what to pray? Pray the word that you are reading. For instance, with our passage today, you could pray, "Lord, help me to recognize the loveliness of dwelling with You."
- v. Get a passion. Get excited about God and His Word! Look forward to the things that God will reveal to you that day!

CONCLUSION:

If you are calling yourself a Christian, and not spending any time with Christ, you may want to ask yourself, "Do I really love Christ?" According to Lifeway Research, only 20% of Americans have read the whole Bible. Within the church, that means statistically there are people in our pews who haven't read the whole book of Holy Scriptures. Have you? Are you engaging with God and His Word daily? You cannot abide with Christ if you are not spending time with Him.

If you have not yet made a decision to follow Christ, I would encourage you to do so today.