

travelled to Jerusalem to observe special feasts. The psalm speaks of finding springs in the Valley of Baca and ever-increasing strength until reaching Zion (v.7). It paints a picture of joy in the journey, not just in reaching the destination.

God's travel book, the Bible, urges us to savour the journey that is our lives. When we find ourselves travelling a difficult road, we can resist and complain, or we can set our hearts on pilgrimage. Where we walk today is just as important as where we will be tomorrow. –DCM

*He gives me work that I may seek His rest,
He gives me strength to meet the hardest test;
And as I walk in providential grace,
I find the joy to complete the race.*

**Unspeakable joy not only awaits us in heaven—
there's joy in the journey.**



AUGUST 6, 2017

Pilgrimage

Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. –Psalm 84:5

Travel books focus on reaching a destination and having an enjoyable time when you arrive. But a new volume called *The Art Of Pilgrimage* looks beyond that perspective to consider the deeper significance of travel. "A journey without challenge has no meaning," writes the author. "One without purpose has no soul." In his book, the journey is as important as the destination.

Is that how we view our daily lives? Or have we become so obsessed with getting beyond the struggles of everyday life that the journey is little more than a process to be endured?

Psalm 84 profiles a person whose strength is in God and "whose heart is set on pilgrimage" (v.5). The ancient Jews experienced this as they





Heart Song

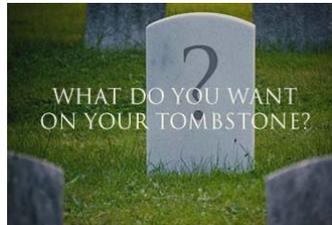
A Heart to Worship

(Mark 12:29-30) "... The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. {30} 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment."

Psalms 84:5

(John 4:21) "...the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father."

(John 4:24) "...God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."



Psalms 84 describes 4 aspects of the pilgrim's experience:

1. _____, verses 1-4

(James 4:8) "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. ..."

(Hebrews 7:19) "for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God."

(Hebrews 10:22) "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

(John 15:1) "'I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser."

(John 15:4-7) "'Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. {5} 'I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. {6} 'If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they



gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. {7} 'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

(John 15:9-11) "'As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. {10} 'If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

[11] "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

2. _____, verses 5-7

(Revelation 21:2-3) "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. {3} And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."

(Jeremiah 9:23-24) "... Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in



his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; {24} But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD."

(Jeremiah 17:5) "... Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD."

(Romans 8:28) "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

(James 1:2-3) "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

(Isaiah 40:31) "But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."

(2 Corinthians 4:16-18) "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. {17} For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, {18} while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

3. _____, verses 8-9

4. _____, verses 10-12

(John 10:11) "'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

(John 10:27-28) "'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. {28} "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

