
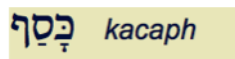

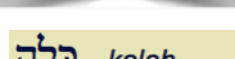
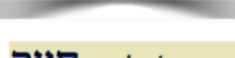



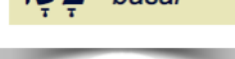
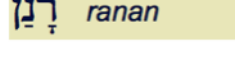
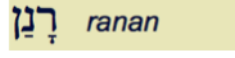
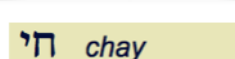


WEEK TEN
DAY TWO

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

Psalms 84:2

My soul		– a breathing creature, soul
longs		– to become pale, to pine after, desire
yes		– yea, also, moreover
faints		– to end, faint, long
for the courts		– a yard enclosed by a fence, court
of the Lord		– the self-Existent or Eternal; Jewish national name of God —Jehovah, the Lord
my heart		– the heart, also used for the feelings, the will, and even the intellect, likewise for the center of anything
and flesh		– flesh, self, skin
sing		– a primitive root; probably to brighten up; be gleesome:—cheer up, be glad, make joyful, rejoice
for joy		– a primitive root; probably to brighten up; be gleesome:—cheer up, be glad, make joyful, rejoice
to the living		– alive, strong
God		– strength, mighty; the Almighty God

WEEK TEN
DAY THREE

**My soul longs; yes, faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
Psalm 84:2**

In his poem “The Death of the Hired Man,” Robert Frost describes an odd homecoming. Silas, an unfaithful employee, returns to the place he considers home – the house of his former employer. While the employer grumbles over the unwelcome reappearance, his wife reminds him, “Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.”

In Luke 15, Jesus tells a story about another vagabond, now known as “The Prodigal Son.” This runaway, probably more broken and weary than Frost’s hired man, longs for his home and remorsefully returns to the home and Father he spurned.

The hired man and the prodigal son are not the only ones with longings. We all long for something – rest, comfort, and security, to name a few. If Jesus were to physically visit each one of us today and ask, “What do you want me to do for you?” (Mt. 20:32; Mk. 10:36, 51; Lk. 18:41), how would you respond?

Psalm 84 captures a man’s longing to be where God is. As Solomon asks God not for riches or longevity but for wisdom (1 Kings 3:11), so the psalmist expresses his desire not for God’s gifts but for God Himself. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mt. 6:21). The psalmist sees the place God is as his true home.

Do I consider God’s presence my true home? Do I long so much for the LORD that my heart “faints” for Him – that I want only to be near Him and walk with Him?

This proximity to the LORD produces JOY. When he is near the LORD, the psalmist’s heart and flesh sing for JOY to the object of his affection. Both the psalmist’s spirit and body thrill with the nearness of God.

Honestly, I often obey God from duty and not from delight. But if we ask Him to give us hunger and thirst for Him, to fill us with passion for Him and His Word, He WILL answer that prayer (Mt. 5:6, 7:7). Sisters, let us do this together, praying the prayer that never fails: “Your will be done in Your world and in my life!”

Hebrews 11 memorializes God’s people who long for their true homeland, the city God is preparing for them. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf, this magnificent city will be the home of all who trust in Jesus. Here all our longings will be fulfilled in the person of Jesus. And as Jesus promises in John 6:37, “Whoever comes to Me I will never cast out” – He will always “take you in.”

~ Elisabeth Hooker

WEEK TEN
DAY FOUR

**My soul longs; yes, faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
Psalm 84:2**

The words “soul, heart, flesh,” represent human nature in its entirety: longing, craving, hungering, consumed with desire ...crying out for the “living God.” Nothing less will do.

Richard Sibbes preached in the early 1690s in London. He said, “You may counterfeit words; you may counterfeit actions; but you cannot counterfeit desires.” In other words, if you want to know the heart of who you are, put your finger on the pulse of your desires.

Any thing or any person we desire more than God, treasure more than God, or enjoy more than God is called an idol. Idolatry is dangerous because it undermines our enjoyment of God’s love for us and the authenticity of our love for Him. We become apathetic and lukewarm, drifting from life-giving intimacy, provided by the blood of Christ. Once this lifeline is damaged, all satisfaction, joy, provisions of grace, fulfillments, and fruitfulness are hindered. Misery, confusion, and emptiness follow.

The temptations are relentless and seductive. Personal significance, power, money, pleasure, work relationships, technologies... every day, true believers must choose between the full experience of eternal life in the pursuit of an engaged and intimate knowledge of Christ versus giving ourselves to lesser “stuff.”

Dear ones, the things of this world will never make us content. If all the wealth, success, prestige, and everything our flesh could wish for were ours, we would still feel empty and desire more.

Augustine’s words come to mind, “Our hearts, O God, were made for thee; and never shall they rest until they rest in thee.” You were made for God, and if you settle for anything less than loving him and living for him, then you've been seduced. God has something better for you. Let us live with NO other gods through a passionate pursuit of a burning love for Christ that far surpasses all other attractions.

1 John has a powerful ending thought that I want to leave you with: “The Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.”

Prayer...Father, help me to love you soul, heart, and flesh. Amen.

~ Jeanine Dungan

WEEK TEN
DAY FIVE

**My soul longs; yes, faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.
Psalm 84:2**

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "The psalmist declared that he could not remain silent in his desires, but began to cry out for God and his house; he wept, he sighed, he pleaded for the privilege. Some need to be whipped to church, while here is the Psalmist crying for it. He needed no clatter of bells from the belfry to ring him in, he carried his bell in his own bosom: holy appetite is a better call to worship than a full chime."

I believe Satan can easily use this verse to try to bring condemnation to believers as our minds easily drift to worldly thoughts or we forget the goodness of our living God. Honestly, how often do we faint for the courts of the Lord?

Yet it is often in the courts of the Lord, in His presence, in His house surrounded by other believers in fellowship, that my focus is put back on God by the worship through songs of mercy and love and the teaching of His Word. I am reminded of His goodness in my life and in the lives of those around me by their testimony.

Community is critical for continued growth in your walk with God, in healing, and in life.

Use Psalm 84:2 as a prayer throughout the week as you ask God to grow your "holy appetite" and be encouraged by the satisfaction that being in His presence with other believers brings your soul.

~ Trish Bruce

