

WEEK SEVENTEEN
DAY TWO

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
Psalm 84:8

O Lord	יְהוָה <i>Yĕhovah</i>	– the self-Existent or Eternal; Jewish national name of God —Jehovah, the Lord
God	אֱלֹהִים <i>'elohiym</i>	– (plural) can mean rulers, judges; in this case the supreme God
of hosts	צְבָא <i>tsaba'</i>	– a mass of persons, especially organized for war; an army, company, host, soldiers
hear	שָׁמַע <i>shama'</i>	– to hear intelligently, give ear, listen, regard
my prayer	תְּפִלָּה <i>tĕphillah</i>	– intercession, supplication, prayer.
give ear	אָזַן <i>'azan</i>	– to broaden out the ear (with the hand), to listen
O God	אֱלֹהִים <i>'elohiym</i>	– (plural) can mean rulers, judges; in this case the supreme God
of Jacob	יַעֲקֹב <i>Ya`aqob</i>	– heel-catcher, supplanter; the Israelitish patriarch:—Jacob
Selah	סֵלָה <i>celah</i>	– exact definition unknown; possibly to lift up or exalt; a (musical) pause.

WEEK SEVENTEEN
DAY THREE

**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
Psalm 84:8**

I love that this verse unites God's power with our need. He is eternal power and hourly presence. There is no other God like ours.

God is first appealed to by the Psalmist as a God of power, as a God who is able to accomplish all his purposes and to impart every needed blessing. As the LORD of hosts, or armies, in heaven and in earth, God is the all-powerful Ruler over the entire universe. All power and authority are His.

Isaiah 59:1 says:

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.”

His second appeal is to the God of Jacob, and this appeal has the *Selah*, which is a musical pause intended to make us mark the words immediately preceding them. Beautiful—the God of *Jacob*, who was a very imperfect character, a humble man, a fearful man, who often fell, but knew his dependence on God. I do not wonder that the Holy Spirit puts a musical pause after that statement because prayer is the means of laying hold of God's strength, peace, wisdom, or guidance in our weakness and need.

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." - Max Lucado

Psalm 116:1-2 says:

“I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.”

Lord, we rejoice that you know our frame and are mindful that we are but dust and are in great need of you. So, you invite us—even command us—to pray and tap into your power and grace... Alleluia, Alleluia, and Alleluia. We would be fools not to pray as we breathe, without ceasing. *Help us...*

~ Jeanine Dungan

WEEK SEVENTEEN
DAY FOUR

**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
Psalm 84:8**

Many Christians struggle to pray for varying reasons. We might be easily distracted, not know where to begin, or not really see the point. Regardless of the perceived reason for our struggle with prayer, our foundational issue is the sin of unbelief. We doubt that God is good and listens to our prayers; we doubt our need to pray; and, we doubt the effectiveness of prayer. Yet, throughout the Bible—especially in Psalms—the LORD provides models and gives commands to teach us the beauty and urgency of prayer.

Our greatest model for prayer is Jesus. Jesus prayed consistently, setting aside times of prayer even at His peak of ministry. Since Jesus mastered Scripture, His prayers were likely filled with God's Word. But Jesus also prayed honestly, as the psalmist does in Psalm 84. Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane models the laments of Psalms. Jesus is honest before His Father, asking for the Father to grant a specific request: "Father, if it be Your will, let this cup pass from me." Coupled with the raw request is surrender: Jesus trusts His Father's plans and submits to them.

How extraordinary that the God of the Universe desires us to come to Him as we are, to bring our hurts and struggles and questions! Nothing we say can surprise God. As Derek Kidner wrote in his commentary on Psalms, "[God] knows how we speak when we are desperate." We bring who we are to Him; He who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows (Is. 53).

Oh, but let us not miss that vital component of accepting and submitting to God's will: "In acceptance lieth peace" (Amy Carmichael). He hears and loves His children. He is our infinitely Good Father who gives good gifts, never snakes (Mt. 7:7-11). As we come to know Him through prayer, His Word, and His Spirit, we learn to trust Him, to surrender to what He knows is best. As you pray Psalm 84 today, exult in the truth that He does hear you and withholds no good thing from His children (Rom. 8:32).

~ Elisabeth Hooker

WEEK SEVENTEEN
DAY FIVE

**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
Psalm 84:8**

Isaiah 26:3 says:

“You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.”

Focused on our circumstances, we will sink. Focused on ourselves, we will be miserable. But focused on the wonder of God, we find peace in trusting Him. The Psalmist, coming through a dry place, cries out with eyes on God. O *Yĕhovah 'elohiym tsaba* – Supreme God, self-existent ruler of armies! What a faith builder to keep our eyes on the wonder of the One we are asking to hear.

“Hear” is the Hebrew *shama`*, which when spoken to us by God means to hear and obey. We would be out of our minds to want God to hear and obey us, because Jeremiah 10:23 reminds us that it is not in us to know which way to go. So the Psalmist is asking God to hear and act on his behalf. 2 Chronicles 16:9 lets us know that God is watching for opportunity to do just that for those whose hearts are His. When God is kept at center stage, it is the greatest show on earth.

“Give ear” is the Hebrew *'azan*, giving a picture of someone cupping the ear to hear. What grace and mercy that the Lord of hosts would stoop down in compassion to hear us! As we pray, He is able to reveal any wrong motives we might have; if our focus has shifted from Him; if we are not in line with His will. He is able to console, correct, instruct, satisfy, and help us. He made all of this possible by bringing us into right relationship with Him through Christ. Let's continually ask Him to conform our desires to line up with His, that we may serve faithfully with joy.

~ Charlotte Travis

