

WEEK TWENTY-ONE
DAY TWO

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

Psalms 84:12

O Lord

יְהוָה: *Yĕhovah*

– the self-Existent or Eternal; Jewish national name of God –Jehovah, the Lord

of hosts

צְבָא *tsaba'*

– a mass of persons, especially organized for war; an army, company, host, soldiers

blessed

אֶשֶׁר *'esher*

– happiness; blessed, happy

is the one

אָדָם *'adam*

– human being; mankind, person.

who trusts

בָּטַח *batach*

– to go quickly for refuge; to trust; be confident or sure

in you!

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Psalm 84:12**

The psalmist's last beatitude... happy is the one who trusts in the Lord of hosts. Another way of saying "LORD of hosts" is "God of the armies of heaven." Jesus, King of glory, who commands the armies of heaven and who will eventually defeat all His enemies in this world, has the grace to always be there for the one who trusts in him. Trust is the key to this verse... what is it to trust God?

To trust in God is to know Him and believe He is who He says He is. The all-powerful, all-wise being, who created the world and governs it, the all-loving and merciful one who chose man and has a plan for his redemption and good.

Trust implies submission. Very often God fails to do things for us because we do not permit him to. We want to plan for ourselves. We want things to be done in the way that seems best to our finite wisdom. When anything threatens, we become alarmed and try to help God. We feel that it is not safe to leave all in his hands and let him manage the circumstances, and that complicates things. I know it is harder for God to manage us than it is for him to manage the difficulties. To trust God means to let him have his way and do things as he thinks best. It says, "Not my will, but Yours, be done," with courage to the best of our ability.

Trust implies obedience. It means working with God to produce the results. We cannot sit on our blessed assurance (as Dr. Youssef likes to say) and expect things to work themselves out. Faith and works must go together. We must permit God to direct our efforts and command our efforts.

Trust implies patience, because God works on his own perfect timing. Trust is not "blind faith"; it sees the dangers, needs, and difficulties that threaten, and assesses them at their true value. Trust sees the full reality, but it looks beyond and sees God, our all-sufficient help. It sees Him greater than the needs or the dangers or the difficulties, and it leads to comfort and hope and strength for the journey. In trust, there is a rising calm in our soul as fear and doubt are swallowed up in assurance that He is our powerful sun and our shield of protection who bestows grace for any and every situation we find ourselves in.

Let us close this devotional in prayer and contemplation of Jeremiah 17 beginning in the 7th verse... Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit... AMEN.

~Jeanine Dungan

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DAY FOUR

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Thanksgiving was history. This day after featured creative leftover amalgamation; bonhomie lingered. Happy background noises were music to parental ears. After yesterday's "thankful" focus, today's topic leaned into anticipation for the year ahead. Hopes, aspirations, goals...weight management (really, after yesterday's calorie intake, do we have to go there?!), business expansion, maybe helping with emergency foster care... plenty of individual expression. Somebody tossed out: "I want to learn to trust God more in order to rest easier as life comes at me." This met plenty of ready assent—genial unanimous consensus. In a group of Christ followers, what's to dispute about trusting God more? A short pause though... and, from another quarter... "It's always a trust issue, isn't it?" And, the premise still resonates.

"It's all very well to have noble theories about God; but where is the good of them except we actually trust in Him as a real, present, living, loving Being, who counts us of more value than many sparrows, and will not let one of them fall to the ground without Him?"* Do you feel blessed? Trusting God, we are an undeniably blessed bunch; the Bible says so point blank. If life's all about trusting Him, it's tightly connected to blessing, too—as the Psalmist states. God isn't asking our opinion—His isn't a popular vote democracy. Whatever He's allowed into our life today is His prescribed blessing... feeling notwithstanding. Today is blessed, and we trust Him for it. How will you trust Him and apprehend that blessing—dive into it, watch for Him in it, thank Him for it, learn from it, grow with it... and see what He makes of it... more blessing tomorrow... and tomorrow... and tomorrow!

*George MacDonald

~Denise Nyberg

WEEK TWENTY-ONE
DAY FIVE

**O Lord of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in you!
Psalm 84:12**

I love how this verse unfolds. With eyes on our circumstances, we may struggle to realize how blessed we are. But with right focus, we meditate on who God is. Happiness wells up as we realize the wonder of the One we rely on! We trust in the Rock that cannot be moved; the One who loved us while we were yet sinners; the One who hates evil and is only good continually. This happiness spoken of by the Psalmist comes as we hear truth and believe it. Using Psalm 84, let's work some spiritual muscles to hear and believe the truth about the glorious One who cares for us.

Blessed are we who trusts in You, because:

You are the One who through Christ, has invited us into Your lovely dwelling place, made us your lovely dwelling place!

You are the One who is Lord of hosts.

You are the One who is worthy of our soul's longing.

You are the One who is the very living God.

You are the One who is King.

You are the One who insists on joyful singing and praise.

You are the One who offers to be our strength.

You are the One who puts the way to Your Kingdom in our hearts.

You are the One who makes us a blessing of refreshment to others, even in the hard places.

You are the One who causes us to grow stronger and stronger through less of us and more of You.

You are the One who allows us to appear before You through Christ.

You are the One who hears us.

You are the One who provides, and is, our shield.

You are the One who is light.

You are the One who bestows favor and honor.

You are the One who withholds no good thing from those who walk in Your righteousness.

Lord, thank You.

~Charlotte Travis

