



6/22/26

I hope you had a wonderful Father's Day! I'm sure it can be a day of such mixed emotions... celebrating fathers, grieving over loss, remembering moments from the past. I'm so thankful we have a God who loves to be our Father, who is there with us for every one of those emotions.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalm 24

I loved the questions given to the husbands to ask their wives in the message on Sunday... so that they can understand them. I also thought, these are excellent questions for me to seek the answer to in regard to my eternal Husband, Jesus Christ.

- 1. What fills His soul with joy? What puts a smile on His face? He delights in relationship with me, and in steadfast love, justice, and righteousness. He loves to abide with me to fill me with His joy. I'm so blessed.*
- 2. What taps His soul? What wipes Him out? Isaiah 40:27-29 tells me that NOTHING taps His soul or wipes Him out. He can handle everything without ever being overwhelmed, no matter how serious the situation.*
- 3. What makes Him laugh? I want to find this out.*
- 4. What makes Him cry? It grieves Him when I refuse to be close to Him.*
- 5. Where is He strong? EVERYWHERE*
- 6. Where is He weak? NOWHERE*
- 7. What's a date night He loves most? Or... what does spending time together look like with Him? O Lord, You love being there in every situation. There's not a situation I face where You aren't there. I want to know what it is to spend sweet time with You every day, deeper and more intimate each day.*

As I consider these questions, I realize that this is a picture of doing life with the Lord... being in His presence. The more time I spend with Him, the more I will know the answers to these questions. He already knows the answers to these questions about me... and He fills me with what draws us into deeper relationship. So as I look at Psalm 24, what can I learn about the Lord that helps me understand Him better, and that draws me into a deeper relationship with Him?

Vs. 1-2 ~ First, I need to understand His power and authority... "The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers." He owns everything... the earth, everything in it, and all the people. He owns it all because He created it all. He has authority over all. Let me not think He's weak or powerless. Let me never think He doesn't know what He's doing. He keeps the planets orbiting in their perfect places so that we don't explode. He knows exactly what He's doing, and he knows exactly how to do it. If I truly understand that about Him, it will instill security and peace in me. The one with all authority and power is the one who keeps me safe.

Vs. 3 ~ If I truly understand that He is the one with all power and authority, it will blow me away that He WANTS me to be in His presence, in relationship with Him... "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?" Why would God allow this question to be asked if He didn't want me to be in His presence? He does! And why wouldn't I want to know what's important to Him since He loves me so much that He made a way for me to be in His presence? I do.

So what does matter to Him as I come into His presence?

Vs. 4 ~ "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully."

- *God wants me to have clean hands... whatever I DO, engage in the things that are clean, holy before the Lord. It's so easy to rationalize things that "aren't that bad," but that don't draw me closer to the Lord. It pleases Him when I focus my attention on what is clean before Him.*
- *God wants my heart to be pure... It's not just about my actions, it's about my motives. Even good things aren't good if they're done from the wrong motives. My prayer is that my heart will become so pure before Him that someday when my "filter" is completely gone and whatever I'm thinking comes out of my mouth... only pure things will come out. O Lord, please make it so.*
- *God wants me to lift up my soul to HIM, not to lies and deceit. This takes me focusing on His truth with all my attention because my heart is so easily deceived.*
- *God wants me not to swear deceitfully, not to make promises that I have no intention of keeping. My words mean nothing if my actions don't follow.*

Here's the beautiful thing to understand about the Lord. I can't out give Him. Vs. 5-6 says, "He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah (ponder this)" As I seek the Lord and all that pleases Him, He blesses me with more and more righteousness. The deception that fights for my attention is that righteousness is boring or lame. True righteousness brings PEACE. God BLESSES me with righteousness, peace, salvation, security, and protection. All He asks of me is to seek Him, not earn my way to Him, but spend time with Him. God will never force me to seek Him. But when I do, He blesses me with more than I can imagine. There's only one way to find out that this is true... Seek Him. O Lord, I don't have to pray for You to bless me. You want to and You will. I need to pray for You to help me. You're not the problem when I don't experience Your blessing, I am.

Vs. 7-10 are the same statement repeated twice. Why repeat it? To make a point. The King of glory WANTS to come in. He WANTS to be in relationship with me!

"Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah"

In the Old Testament, the hill is the walk to Jerusalem (it's on a hill). And the holy place is speaking of the inner sanctum of the temple. In the New Testament, since Jesus came and gave Himself for a new covenant with me, there is no distance I need to travel to get to the Lord. I have the Holy Spirit sealing me and dwelling in me. There is no holy place I have to go to. I am now a temple of the Holy Spirit. The call for me is to open the door of my heart so that the King of glory can be in this incredible relationship with me. Revelation 3:20 says it like this, with Jesus speaking, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door... I will come in to him and eat with him and he with Me." Who is this King of glory who wants to eat with me as I lift up the gates of my heart and open my door to Him? This is the LORD... Yahweh... the King of glory... the one who is so strong that death could not hold Him, so mighty that He has conquered the power of sin and death. He is my mighty warrior who fights for me and wins.

It should be me begging Him to open the door!!! But His door is already open to me. O Lord, I would be CRAZY not to open my gates to You!