

A burglar who had entered a poor minister's house at midnight was disturbed by the awakening of the preacher. Drawing his gun, he said: "If you stir you are a dead man; I'm looking for your money." "Let me up and turn on the light," said the minister, "and I'll help you hunt."

-Biblical Recorder

IN QUEST OF A THRILL"

Psalm 84

33 years ago July 16, 5:30 Am
19 ~~John~~ - near Albuquerque
N. M. - Explosion seen 400 mi away

July 23, 1978 P.M. 5
(P.O.)

INTRODUCTION:

We find many thrills and many thrill seekers today. What is your quest? Every person here is in quest of some thrill. We have a unique ~~song~~ today - there is a wonderful theme to it. And of course, my subject is taken out of the translation given by Moffett. In which he states in v. 2 - "now soul and body thrill with joy over the living God." My heart and my flesh give a shout of joy, for the living God.

Thrilled with joy over the living. Shout of joy. Sing for joy. Timely words for a generation so much of whose activity who is directed in quest of a thrill. We have so much nervous momentum, we have the possibility of looking for sensations, we turn almost to undisciplined animalism, and seek thrills a plenty. And lesson after lesson comes to us that mere physical thrills does not always bring happiness.

There is an advertisement in the London Times years ago - "Wanted by an Invalid Lady a Housekeeper. Must be a good church woman to take entire charge of house and four servants. A cheerful Christian, if possible."

Now there might have been a town full of Christians. But this is something of humor. A cheerful Christian, if possible.

We do not impress this town if the joy has dried up. Without the New Testament experience, we never penetrate to the heart and we are just superficial. Paul was in the midst of conflict when he said and insisted - rejoice in the Lord always. Let it

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19th Atomic Bomb - near Albuquerque
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come naturally.

A second-hand religion never does much for any person. All of the hear-say things we experience is never sufficient. But men who miss the thrill of faith because they lack the investment of life. So here is something worth thinking about.

For what do you live? How much does your presence in the world mean to others. As you travel through life, what influences are set in motion. Do you gladden the hearts of other people? Do you make life brighter. The world is full of irritations, frustrations, tragedies, heartaches, poverty, poor health, unhealthiness. How do you fit into the picture.

Have you realized the purpose of life. Now if the message of this Psalm gets ahold of your heart, it is apt to change your life.

The Psalmist is thinking about a house where there is worship. He is thinking about a temple. He has a picture here. And he writes about it. He has three stanzas in which he gives us the wonderful message about thrills.

The theme of this little Psalm talks about the advantages of a man who is in touch with the living God. Who lives a life of faith.

The Psalm is in three parts. It is marked off by the little word selah. Now in

the Hebrew this means think of that. Pause and think of what has been said.

1-7 The first four verses deal with a hunger. He talks about the advantages of God, of being with God, and that God is at home with his people. And he has a longing in his heart to get there and to dwell in that sanctuary. And he talks about the thrill of over coming difficulties. To stand in the holy place of worship.

Now people think about this very lightly. I saw a man this week who was paralyzed, in a wheel chair, able to talk. The greatest desire in my heart is, to get able to get on my feet and to come to your church, and stand up and tell what God has done. He has been to death and back. He had a remarkable vision, of different things of the hereafter. And here he says the greatest thrill would be, just like the Psalmist, there is the hunger.

3-8 Second, there are the happenings. That's a great word for the young people today - to talk about a happening. The precious privilege that God gives us who trusts him.

9-12 Third, and finally, happiness - V. 9-12. We find the concluding part of this study which brings the man with his thrills and harmony with the Heavenly program.

Now this is a long route - he is going to have to go through hills, pains, and valleys. Lets see what happens.

I. HUNGER

V. 1 - Begins how lovely is thy dwelling place. How I love your palace.
Lord, of the Sabbath. //

V. 2 - How I yearn, how I pine for the courts of the Lord. My soul longs.
Yea, he says it faints for the courts of the Lord. // What a wonderful expression.
That is the excitement that has been produced by the presence of God.

Now he meant the temple - the building in Jerusalem. Where God's glory was
manifest in the holy of holies within the temple. That strange and mysterious light
of the presence of God. No man was permitted to enter the holy place except the
high priest. He could go once a year under the most rigid rituals. When the
Israelite came to the temple, he could come physically but he could not enter the
holy of holies. And be in the very presence of God. Nevertheless, this man's heart
and mind pictures a true picture of a true sacrifice. There is a hunger in his heart
for this thrill.

Christians talk about the dwelling place of God. We learn from the New
Testament that we are talking about our bodies. I Cor. 6 - our bodies are the temples
of the Holy Spirit. Who lives within us. If we read this Psalm and read what Paul
has to say about our bodies, there is excitement that comes because of the presence
of God within our bodies.

There are two or three reasons why this is so.

First, the inner beauty which God creates, by his presence. How lovely are thy

dwelling. The place where God lives and the heart where God dwells becomes a lovely place, a beautiful place.

In Eph. Paul prays that Christ may make his home in your hearts by faith. Because the heart will then always be a lovely place. The character of the heart is changed. In practice, that means that you will be a lot easier to get along with. You will be less picky, and less difficult when God is living in you. You will become a beautiful person in the truest sense. Have you ever heard someone use that expression (he or she is a beautiful person)

A second thing about this is, the (compelling hunger) My soul faints, longs, for the courts of glory. Have you ever felt this way?

Have you ever known a deep-seated longing to have more of the glory of God, More of the sense of his presence in your life. Have you fed upon his word and been satisfied. And yet you go away and you hunger for more.

The (hymn) says we taste thee, oh thou living bread. And long to feast upon thee still. We drink of thee, the fountain head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.

This is something unique. God has a wonderful ability to satisfy. At the same time, he makes us hungry for more.

from the presence of God. When this hunger is satisfied. For he says my heart and my flesh sing for joy. That is exactly what God has meant life to be.

How many years has it been since you have felt that kind of excitement, You haven't really touched the possibilities of the Christian life. The Christian life is not artificial excitement. It is not something you put on like a mask - but it is the real thing so the jingle goes. And the reality of the excitement of God's presence, is right here.

Now, you may say I do the same old things over and over again. What can you suggest for the problems of boredom. That's a good question. If your relationship with God does not help you with that kind of problem, then it is not much of a relationship. The great secret to the relief of boredom in my judgement is found in John 4. There the Lord meets with a bored woman. She is coming to a well for water. She has run through several experiences of marriage. Five to be exact. She is trying vainly to find something for excitement and satisfaction. Listen, Jesus said whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst. The water that I shall give him shall become a spring of water welling up into eternal life. John 4:14. By that spring, Jesus referred to himself. In other words, he would enter into the heart, he would become her spring, and she could drink at any time.

Now that is the practical secret. Outward circumstances get boring. But here as I drink from within - as I take a good long drink, of the living God who lives within me. I drink of the refreshing character of his being. And that is my relationship with him. And that he is continually there. And my spirit has been refreshed.

V. 3-4 He mentions the hunger that becomes a contentment in the presence of God's being. And he gives us a wonderful illustration. He mentions two birds that are frequently found in the Scripture. The first is a sparrow. You know Jesus referred to this - not one of them shall fall to the ground without your Heavenly Father knowing about it, and you are of more value than many sparrows. Matt. 10:29-31.

In another place, Jesus mentioned that five sparrows sold in the market place, for a very small amount of money. Now we recognize that the sparrow is a popular symbol for insignificance. Sparrows represent those that feel they are not worth anything.

Now the Psalmist says, even the man or woman that feels insignificant, can find in God a home, a place of warmth, and a place of security. A place where his life can be fulfilled. And a place where he will have the greatest thrill of all times.

The Scriptures tell us that God passes over the proud and the powerful. Gideon was that kind of a man. He was sure that he didn't amount to anything.

That he protested when God called him to deliver Israel. Moses did the same thing. He had been a king's court - with all the possibilities of power in his command. He felt though that he had ruined his opportunities when he killed the Egyptian and had to flea, to the desert. But you understand, there was no more chance, he thought for himself.

But it wasn't all over in God's scheme. God uses some of these things to train. And

Moses reached the place where God could work through him, and picked him up as an insignificant man. I'm convinced that God is continually using people. He puts them through all kinds of training. And I think when the Nominating Committee selects people in Sunday School work and church offices - we should consider this fact. There are lots of people who feel they are not able or capable. Our Lord said to Peter, feed my lambs. Was it when Peter was boasting, look Lord you can count on me. But you can't count on others. Very well. No, it was after Peter had denied his Lord. And had gone out and wept bitterly that Jesus called him. And said, feed my lambs.

*Sparrow Found Rest in the Temple of God - Why should not we? Since of security
Build Nest above altar & gravitate to Gods Temple - " " " "
Rear their young near " " -> There can not be another stable generation until Parents
begin raising their young near the altar of the Lord!*

Even the sparrow will find a place of usefulness - a home in God. The other bird

that he uses is a swallow. Where we used to live out in the country - we had many swallows. Every evening just about dusk - you could see them darting about. They are the swiftest birds and really a symbol of restless activity. I think they are used in the Scriptures to illustrate this point. They represent people who are restless. Who, however, looking for something new - for some new thrill. They settle down and they try this but that doesn't work. And they are like rolling stones - they are restless. They are ever on the move.

And you know, there are people that never settle down. And the Psalmist says, even the swallow can find in God a home. He can find a place to build a nest and raise young. And a place of purpose. And a place of fulfillment. *From Altar*

Through my years of preaching, I can tell you that the only place the restless will even find rest is in God. They will find in him that rest that Jesus spoke about.

Come unto me all ye who are laboring, and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, learn of me. For I am gentle and lowly in heart. And you will

find rest for your souls. Matt. 11:28-29. Now they are not just empty words. It is not just beautiful language.

Listen, now this is not just something to stir up your spirit on Sunday morning. That is not just the design for your life. If you are restless - there is a message in these words for you. He is speaking to you. And God wants to give you rest. You won't find it in circumstances. You won't find it in adventure. But as the Psalmist says, even the swallows at the alter of the Lord, of hosts, my king and my God.

JB

Now that is a wonderful phrasing - isn't it. He puts together here two great things about God. They seem to be contradictory. First he refers to God as a Lord of hosts. What does that mean. That means that he is a Lord of the multitudes, Lord of the great crowds. One on whom (all the creatures) of the earth can depend for a living. He is the one mighty in power and able to meet the need of thousands and thousands everywhere.

Then he adds, my king and my God. That is a personal note. Here is a Lord of a great host. One of the glories of God, a wonderful fact that he is able to do what none of us can do. He is able to give himself wholly to one - to me as an individual. The same time, he is doing that - he can also give his attention to you and to everyone else in the world. You know sometimes, I wish, and I know you do - that you had that power. Something that you stretch yourself out in 15 different directions. Every one needs a friend. Every one needs help. And I'd love to help but I can't. But here is one thing about it - God can. My king and my God. No wonder he says, blessed are those that dwell in thy house. Here is such a happy - or those that live in your house. And can praise you all the day long. Think of that. Pause a minute - here is a hunger and a thrill that you are searching for.

II. HAPPENINGS

V. (5-8). This new section is a description of what is happening when God is at work in our hearts. He tells us about how the thrill takes place and how we - the soul and the body thrill with joy over the living God.

V. (5) He begins by saying, "happy are they, whose strength is in thee." In whose heart are the ways of them. But here is courage and strength. The secret here, the usefulness is set forth. Here is a happening. Now may I ask you something? Many of you have been Christians for a long time. When you get in difficulty, trouble, pressure - where is your strength? He found his strength in God. That he is the one that makes the difference.

Quite often we come in with responsibilities that we have. We are tired. We are under pressure. And people load us up. And we say, what is the use of praying? And then it hits you. Is my reliance - is it upon my prayers. But it's upon God's power. You know, I think sometimes, that we as Christians talk about the power of prayer - it may sound wrong. There isn't any power in prayer - there is power in God who answers prayer.

Charles Spurgeon once said, we have an idea that there is power in our ministry. In the lungs of a preacher. But that is not where the power lies. Power lies in the God who is behind the prayer. And blessed are the men, the women, the young people whose strength is in thee.

Have you ever read some of the ads in the newspapers about people who want to sell cars. Read some of these ads sometimes, and you will learn how they use this phrase.

Power all around. Now you think about that a minute and you realize what it means. Power steering, power brakes, automatic transmission, power windows, power seats. And in some cases, they have a power top in which it turns into a convertible. Power all around. Now all of this power is designed to take the strain of driving that you do. All you need to do is just sit there and push little buttons, and things will happen. What a tremendous description of the Christian life. Power all around.

God didn't give you a spirit of fear - but a spirit of power, love, and self-control. Power all around.

Here is somebody who gets into a difficult place. He has a hard time knowing what decision to make. He ought to try that button of power steering.

Your ears will hear a word behind you saying - this is the way, walk in it. And you turn to the right and you turn to the left. Isa. 30:21.

Are you having trouble with a stubborn habit. Well, why not buy power brakes. These things will more than conquer through him that loved us. Rom. 8:37.

Are you bothered as a moody person - always discouraged and disagreeable. Why not try your power windows. And the peace of God that passeth all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7.

When you feel so weak and unable to serve the Lord Jesus in a little task in the church. And when you fail to find a satisfying life - why don't you try power unlimited Power all around. Acts 1:8 - you shall receive power when the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses. "

Isn't that a marvelous thing that he says here. Your strength is in God's strength.

V.6 / Another thing that is happening, you are passing through a highway that is going to lead you through a valley. V. 6. Blessed is a man who passes through the valley of Baca, naked or well, the rain also filleth the pools. Going through the valley of the weeper. The name suggests the spring. And it is the blessing of early rains. And as he goes through this valley with its spring, he can make his way on up to the high places. You remember John the Baptist preached as a voice in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight the desert, the highway for our God. And he also as a prophet described - every valley shall be lifted up, every valley and mountain and hill - made low. The uneven ground shall be level and the rough places plain.

The Psalmist described it here - men and women who know how to build in their hearts a highway for God, how is this done?

Well, when you get down in the valley. You bring them up the level way by trusting in God. And when you get on the mountain of difficulty - there is pride and conceit, he says you are going to travel the way God wants you. Learn the secret

he says, as you go through the valley of Baca. They make it a place of springs. This is a valley of weeping. And the man who knows how to make a highway for God, will have this in the lives of others. And there is a sorrowing disappointment, a discouragement, and they will do it by means of the Holy Spirit. And this is wonderful language - the early rain and the latter rain. The early rain speaks of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. By the prophet Joel. And it makes it clear that it happened on the day of Pentecost. And it is able to turn sorrows into joy. And springs into fountains.

Let me illustrate this with a story of a young Polish girl Who studied physics and mathematics, in the University of Paris. She was so poor that she fainted from hunger. Her one room and with one window. She had no gas, no electricity, and no heat. She could afford only two sacks of coal for the entire winter. And she endured the hardship to obtain the knowledge. In later years, she became known as Madam Currie. She worked with his husband and they discovered an element that radiated energy. She named it radium. Countless thousands of patients of cancer have been helped by the treatments. A great lady of science who crossed these barriers, was awarded the Noble prize, she and her husband refused any royalties for the discovery of radium. She said it would be wrong to take advantage of something that would be used for treating diseases.

When we are committed to the task and committed to the strength that God provides, no hindrance can keep us from our goal.

And a large part of your life is made up of necessary passing through unattractive places. On your way to work, on your way to worship. If you have ever been West, you know that you go through the desert and it is a miserable travel. And it is barren and

it is hot. It is not a desired spot. But the Psalmist talked about passing through and it makes a difference. What is life doing to you, when you come in contact with disease, temptation, disasters, disappointments. Heartaches. What happens. A smart young student said, this wicked world God has made - I am sure, I could have made it better. A wise preacher reminded the student, the way is open, and God has put that in your hands. The world is here for you to help work it out.

All people go through this battle.

Glen Cunningham, you remember him - the world's best mile runner. As a child, burned badly in a school house fire. The doctors despaired that he would ever walk. But he believed that he would not have crippled legs. And months and weeks he worked and developed faster legs. And he refused to let the veil of Daca hold him down.

John Bunyan in the Bedford Jail - no one could like a place like that. And yet he gave to us Pilgrim's Progress.

Florence Nightengale loved the ease and comfort. And yet she went with germs and fever and kept her place with the suffering in Crimea. Instead of living in luxury, she used her money, her time, and strength and her smile to help. And only eternity will reveal what that angel accomplished.

Paul in a jail that was far from modern, wrote a great letter to the Philippians.
About the sweetness of life.

Phillips Brooks who preached in Boston was known as God's man. A New England newspaper wrote this line. "Yesterday opened cloudy and unpleasant. But about noon, Phillips Brooks came downtown. And everything brightened up." Do you see it. Just one man walked down the street in a darkened city. What a powerful influence such a man can have. What is your status in this matter. Do you tend in that direction - when you walk down the street or somewhere, does it help. Just your presence!

This is the man, you remember, who wrote "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem".

Jesus taught us about an unforgettable man - the good samaritan. An unfortunate man lay by the roadside - wounded and bleeding. The priest went on his way to his services. The Levite paid no attention - he just looked upon him. And went by on the other side. And one man came and had compassion. He literally put his compassion to work. He was a despised man. Now Jesus said - how are you going to react. Are you going to be like the priest or are you going to be like the good samaritan.

Christ makes the difference.

The hymn writer wrote - while passing through this world of sin, and others your life will view, be clean and pure within, without; let others see Jesus in you.

Your life is a book before their eyes - they are reading it through and through. Say, does it point them to the skies. Do others see Jesus in you.

Let others see Jesus in you. Let others see Jesus in you. Keep telling the story, be faithful and true. Let others see Jesus in you.

V. 7 - They go from strength to strength. Every one of them in zion appeareth before God and the Lord of hosts hears their prayers. These are great happenings. They are really hallelujah's. They from a better to a better experience in God's grace. Until ultimately the God of Gods is seen in Zion. The invisible God becomes visible. Isn't that a marvelous hope. Just think about that. Think about these happenings. Think about the hunger and the happenings.

III. HAPPINESS

Now this really is the Heavenly part. This is the harmonious part. And we ask, in our own hearts make me this kind of a man! Make me this kind of a woman! Help me to learn where my strength lies. And help me to build in my heart highways for God. That I can go through the valley.

Let me ask you a question - is this not what you want? Then I want you to give your ear to the closing parts.

V. 9 / V. 9-12. In V. 9 - behold, our shield, oh God. It is God who is the shield. Our shield now looks down with favor upon your anointed. It is a cry for a personal application of these great truths. This is perfect and proper. Lord, I see your blessings and power in the lives of others. I want this. Give it to me as well. It is perfectly right to pray that way. It is never wrong to ask God to do for you,

what he wants to do for you. It is right to say, Lord, I want to find the way into this.

Now in V. 10 - He gives some reasons as to why he finds in God, this happiness which is incomparable - it is better than anything else in all the world. For a day in thy courts, is better than a thousand elsewhere. "A single day in thy court is worth a thousand, or ten thousand. Merely to stand on the steps of God's house is better than living a life time with the wicked.

If every day could be like that, what a difference there would be in my life. This is what I want. A day is worth a thousand elsewhere. I'd rather be a humble doorkeeper in your house, than to have everything else, and to live in the tents of the wicked. Where they think they live better.

V. 11 - He goes on to say, that we have a unique God, that is complete. For the Lord God is a son and a shield. And he bestows his favor and his honor. And I like this. No good thing does the Lord withhold from them that walk uprightly. If I need a son, if I am in darkness, if I do not know where I am going or what lies ahead of me - then God is my son. And he is wonderful if I need protection - his shield is around me. If I need - that is the good news. The happiness. The hunger, and the happenings.

This acrostic built around the name of Jesus - Jesus. J - just. E - exactly
S - suits. U - us. S - sinner. "Jesus exactly suits us sinners." He is designed for us. He is our son, our shield, he gives us grace and glory. He gives us grace for the pressure. He gives us power to keep peace in our heart. And God is constantly with us.

In every problem, we are always wanting it to happen now. We want the glory all the time. But God knows that is not going to be good for us. So he sums it up.

Listen to V. 12 - Oh Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in thee.
Lord of Sabbath, happy is the man who puts his trust in you.

Have you learned to do this. Again, this is not designed to make you excited on Sunday morning.

This is for all the weeks and the days. This is for all the problems that you now face. As young people, this is for the older people. The retired people. This is the secret of life.

This is a teaching in the quest of a thrill. Now God tells us, this sort of thing may not come over night. But he says, if you will drop a seed in the ground and let it grow. And you will wait upon me. I will bring you extreme riches and all the excitement that will bless your life.

Orville Wright - 1923 said, "I got more thrill out of flying before I had ever been in the air at all - while lying in bed thinking how exciting it would be to fly"

Stranger-like "sparrows" Next to ever above "altar" -

Happenings - Events of life - do have "power all around"

Happiness - one day Better 1000 wicked - Jews, but exactly suits us sinners!