

Psalms 42:1-4, "As the hart panteth after water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday."

My prayer this morning is for a greater longing for the House of the Lord. In the verses previously cited, it was David who, because of the efforts of an ungodly man, had been separated from the House of God. David, in these verses of scripture, expresses his longing desire to be with those that enter into God's service. I would that every child of God would have the same earnest desire for God's House. For it is there:

(1) We are comforted by the preaching of the gospel. In Isaiah 40:1 we read, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins."

(2) We are instructed from God's Holy Word. In 2 Timothy 3:16 the Apostle Paul writes, "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for INSTRUCTION in righteousness:..." (emphasis mine). And two verses later in 2 Timothy 4:2, the Apostle charges Timothy to preach this same word.

(3) We are equipped for Spiritual Warfare. In 2 Corinthians 10:4 we read, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;..." By being at the House of the Lord, we are equipped through the gospel to "Fight a good fight of faith,..."

(4) We are strengthened by the fellowship of others. In Galatians 6:2 we are told to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." How precious it is to have friends in the House of God to help you in those times of need.

(5) We are encouraged in our walk of faith by the Spirit of God. David had been so encouraged by his fellowship with the Lord that even in his troubles he would say in Psalms 42:8, "Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life." And in 42:11 he would say, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." Amen !

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