

The Blessedness of Humble Worship

Ponder: Do you have a highway in your heart?

Scripture: “Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage” (Psalm 84:5, NKJV).

I read the following on a friend’s Facebook page: “The trouble with self-made men is that they worship their creator.” Let that sink in a moment.

The writer of Psalm 84 didn’t say, “Blessed is the man who has clawed and scratched his own way to the top.” While Scripture commends hard work and determination, “I did it my way” will never fill the God-shaped void in the heart of every person. True blessedness comes only from a right relationship with God. That involves acknowledging, “I can’t do it myself,” which logically results in the need and desire to worship God.

Our psalmist recognized that his strength was not found from within himself, but in the Lord. Centuries later Paul learned the same lesson. Three times he pleaded with God to remove his “thorn in the flesh.” But the Lord answered, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect (complete) in weakness.” Paul concluded, “I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me . . . For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

The psalmist continued by saying the blessed man who trusts in the Lord has his heart set on pilgrimage. The text reads more literally, “in whose heart are highways.” What highways are those? The entire psalm points to the writer’s intense desire to worship in Jerusalem. He longs for the courts of the Lord to the point of fainting (v. 2). He would rather be in the courts of the Lord for a day than anywhere else for a thousand days (v. 10). Being a lowly doorkeeper in the house of God is better than dwelling in tents of wickedness (v. 10). So the highways most likely are those leading to Zion (Jerusalem) to observe one of the feast days.

Do you realize that “I’ll do it all myself” is a ticket to failure? Do you understand your dependence upon God and long to worship Him? How is that playing out, not just in church attendance, but in your day-to-day life?

Song: “We’re Marching To Zion”

Prayer: “Mighty God, our heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before You, confessing that we have not the strength or ability to succeed in this life on our own. We praise you for Your infinite power, and we rely upon You to work through us, for we know that Your power is made complete when You exercise it through human weakness. May we always look forward to occasions of worship, whether by ourselves or assembled with Your people. In Jesus’ name, Amen.