

JOYOUS

Living an I'm-Getting-Stronger Joy

- ¹ How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty! ² My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. ³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God. ⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. ⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. ⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. ⁷ **They go from strength to strength**, till each appears before God in Zion.

Psalm 84:1-7 (NIV)

√ We get to ENJOY God on the mountain, but we get to KNOW HIM in the valley.

- A. Valleys get my ATTENTION.
- B. Valleys Cause Me To TAKE INVENTORY.

- ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

Living An "I'm Getting Stronger" Joy:

1. I'm getting stronger in my GRATITUDE.

- ⁴ What pleasure fills those who live every day in your temple, **enjoying you as they worship** in your presence! Pause in his presence.

Psalm 84:4 (TPT)

Δ "JOY is the simplest form of gratitude." (Karl Barth)

2. I'm getting stronger in MY CHOICES.

- ⁵ Blessed are those who **make You their strength**, for they treasure every step of the journey.

Psalm 84:5 (VOICE)

3. I'm getting stronger as I STEP FORWARD and DIG DEEP.

- ⁶ Even when their paths wind through the dark valley of tears, **they dig deep** to find a pleasant pool where others find only pain. He gives to them a brook of blessing filled from the rain of an outpouring.

Psalm 84:6 (TPT)

- ⁴ Lord, even when your path takes me through the valley of deepest darkness, fear will never conquer me, for you already have! **You remain close to me and lead me through it all the way**. Your authority is my strength and my peace. The comfort of your love takes away my fear. I'll never be lonely, for you are near.

Psalm 23:4 (TPT)

4. I'm getting stronger in my PERSONAL FAITH.

- ⁷ They journey from place to place, **gaining strength along the way**; until they meet God....

Psalm 84:7 (VOICE)

- ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, ³¹ But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NKJV)

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