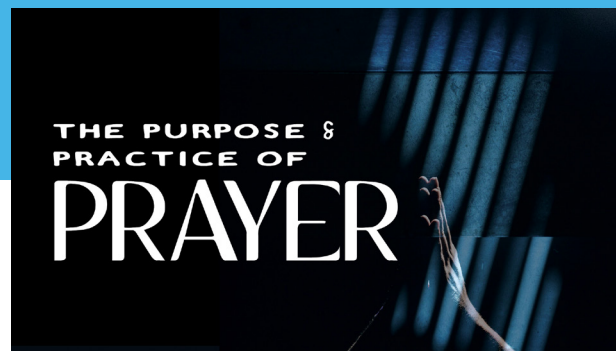


# Discussion Questions

September 27, 2023



## Prayer: God Wants to Dwell With Us

1. Read Exodus 25:8 and 29:42-46.

- What is God's longing for His people in these passages?
- In 29:46, what does God say is His reason for delivering the Israelites out of Egypt?
- Discuss what God's "dwelling presence" was like during this time?

2. Read Psalm 65:3-4, 84:1-2, and 23:6

Summarize how these writers of Psalms felt about Dwelling with God.

3. Read John 1:14.

Discuss how Jesus coming and dwelling is different than the dwelling in Exodus.

4. Read Romans 8:11

Jesus says in John 16:7 that it is better for us that He leaves in order to send His Holy Spirit. Discuss how having the Holy Spirit dwell with us is better than having Jesus standing next to us.

5. In what ways, even as Christians, can we "go through the motions" of Christianity and yet miss God in the midst of it?

- Discuss what it looks like to "dwell with God" for us today and how we can cultivate greater awareness of His presence.

6. If time allows, (or as a personal meditation) read Psalm 42, verses 1-2 only.

What does it seem like the circumstances of this author might be like? (Does it seem like they are in a good place and experiencing contentment and joy, or at the end of their rope?)

Now read the rest of the Psalm. Why are they so desperate for God? How do you think they can speak such praises even after what they describe? How can we seek God like this even when He feels distant?

7. Personal Meditation for the week:

Read Psalm 73 through a couple times. Remember that the author, Asaph, had the full time job of being the chief minister over the ark of God's Presence in the temple. He also led worship and read out God's words to the body. Yet here in this passage he is ready to turn away from God. Meditate on this passage a few times this week. Follow along with Asaph's emotions and his journey towards God's presence in this passage. Then prayerfully see where you can identify with Asaph in missing out on God in the middle of Christian "activities" like Bible reading, worship, church, small group, prayer, etc. Seek the Lord for what it looks like for you to ensure you are intentionally pursuing God and not just "going through the motions."

**Genesis 3:8 (NIV)**

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day.

**Exodus 25:8 (NASB 2020)**

Have them construct a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them.

**Exodus 29:45–46 (NIV)**

Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. They will know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

**Exodus 33:1–3 (NLT)**

The Lord said to Moses, “Get going, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt. Go up to the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I told them, ‘I will give this land to your descendants.’ And I will send an angel before you to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. Go up to this land that flows with milk and honey. But I will not travel among you, for you are a stubborn and rebellious people. If I did, I would surely destroy you along the way.”

**Exodus 33:15 (NLT)**

Then Moses said, “If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place.

**Psalms 23:6 (NIV)**

..and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**Psalms 65:3–4 (NLT)**

Though we are overwhelmed by our sins, you forgive them all. What joy for those you choose to bring near, those who live in your holy courts.

**Psalms 84:1–2 (NLT)**

How lovely is your dwelling place...I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the Lord. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God.

**John 1:14 (NIV)**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

**Romans 8:11 (NLT)**

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.

**Revelation 21:3–4 (NIV)**

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place [tabernacle] is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

**Revelation 22:4 (NIV)**

*They will see his face..*

**Revelation 3:20 (NLT)**

*Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.*

**Psalm 73**

*Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for! They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others.*

*..Look at these wicked people - enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply. Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked. Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. I was so foolish and ignorant - I must have seemed like a senseless animal [wild beast] to you.*

*Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever. But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.*