

**Text:** Psalm 24:1-6

**Meaning:** Those who seek the face of God will be blessed

**Big Idea:** We must seek the face of God

**Objective:** I want the hearers to seek the face of God

**Theme:** What does it look like to seek the face of God?

### FACE TO FACE

We are currently in our 30 day season of prayer and fasting, and today we begin a new series entitled, "**RISE**". We are basing this series on a word in the OT called **SELAH**. The word Selah is a Hebrew word that occurs seventy-one times in the book of Psalms and three times in Habakkuk. The seventy-one appearances in Psalms happen within thirty-nine of the Psalms, as the word Selah is often repeated within the same Psalm. Thirty-one of the thirty-nine Psalms that include the word Selah are titled, "to the choirmaster."....This certainly reinforces the idea that Selah is a kind of musical notation or expression, and that it was known and understood by musicians and even those who were just singing along.

(<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-does-selah-mean.html>)

The New American Standard Hebrew Lexicon defines the Hebrew word (הִלָּח) as "**to lift up, exalt.**" Some scholars believe that Selah was a musical notation possibly meaning "silence" or "pause;" others, "end," "a louder strain," "piano," etc. Still, others think it is similar to a musical interlude, "a pause in the voices singing, while the instruments perform alone." Selah is translated as "**intermission**" in the Septuagint (LXX) which is the earliest Greek translation of the Old Testament. (<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-does-selah-mean-in-the-bible.html#:~:text=Selah%20Definition,%22%20%22piano%2C%22%20etc.>)

So, what the Lord wants to do in us in this series is to teach us to **PAUSE** to seek Him. We need to hit the pause button from life and

let our prayers and our praise and our thoughts **RISE** above our current situation. In the process God wants to **LIFT US** to a new place with Him.

We have to learn to hit pause and take life from horizontal to vertical.

**EVERY HORIZONTAL PROBLEM WE FACE IS EITHER BECAUSE OF OUR LACK OF VERTICAL LIVING OR AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN A VERTICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

**So – Church let’s RISE. Let your prayers RISE. Let your praise RISE. RISE above the circumstances of life and step into the throne room of God and everything will change.**

**There is so much brokenness and bitterness in our world simply because we fail to RISE – we fail to go vertical with God.**

**Today – Psalm 24**

**Context** – David is coming into Jerusalem as King for the very first time. The ark of the covenant, which represents the very presence of Almighty God in the OT, is being ushered into the tabernacle. And David cries out "WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY! ITS THE LORD STRONG AND MIGHTY!"

**So David turns the horizontal vertical** and says, "I may be the new earthly king, but there is only one Heavenly King! And Jerusalem will be his physical dwelling place throughout all generations when Jesus comes again!"

And in this passage David asks the question, "Who is the person who shall ascend the hill of the Lord." In other words, "Who is the person who shall RISE into God’s Presence?"

He goes on to say – the person who will **RISE**, the person living the **VERTICAL** life is the person who continually **seeks the FACE OF GOD.**

It's not the person who seeks the HAND of God or HEALING from God or PROVISION from God or only MATERIAL OR PHYSICAL BLESSINGS from God. The person who will truly experience the very presence and power of the Holy Spirit of God is the person who SEEKS THE FACE OF GOD.

Your face is the distinguishing mark of who you are. There are many similar body types in the world, but there is only one person with your face. You may have a doppelganger out there somewhere, but that person will still not have your exact face, your exact countenance and appearance.

### **GRANDPARENTS HOUSE – COME IN AND STAY A WHILE**

Seeking the face of God is like going to your grandparents house. Growing up when I went to my grandparents house they expected me to come in and stay for a while. It was not the expectation that I would just be passing through. I didn't just want something from them, I wanted to spend time with them.

Seeking the FACE of GOD means I want to come in and stay for a while. I'm not here in your Presence Lord for what you will give me. I'm here just to sit at your feet and hear your voice and glean from your goodness. I'm here for a conversation not simply a contribution. Jesus has something He wants to say to me, that's why I pray.

### **Exodus 33:11**

Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

Prayer was never meant to be formal or ceremonial, and it certainly was never meant to be obligatory. We don't have to pray we get to pray! Prayer was always meant to be seeking the face of God. What does seeking the face of God look like?

### **READ PSALM 24:1-6**

## **1. SEEKING GOD'S FACE MEANS RECOGNIZING HIS AUTHORITY**

David starts His prayer here with a declaration of praise about God's authority over all things. He says the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein. The earth IS the LORD'S speaks of direct ownership. The FULLNESS means the earth and all it contains. So all the marvels, and all the beauty, and all the richness of the earth belongs to God. Why? Because everything has its origin, its very beginning in God. And not only is the material world His, but all the inhabitants of the world are His also. Everything, including each and every one of us, owes our very existence to Him and therefore will give an ANSWER TO HIM at the conclusion of this life. We were formed from the dust of the ground, are but a flower of the field that soon fades and is gone, and our life is no more than a vapor, a mist, and then we pass on. As a Children of God it is important to remember that we are blessed, and loved, and provided for, and highly favored Sons and Daughters of the King. But it is equally important for us to remember that we are nobody without Him! Everything we are and everything we have has been given to us by God and is ON LOAN FROM HIM!

**TODAY – IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND WE HAVE NO OWNERSHIP OF ANYTHING AT ALL. WE ARE OWNED.**

### **KIDS ILLUSTRATION**

It is much like our children at home. We love it in our house when our children talk about what is theirs. Dad, that's my phone. No actually it is my phone because I pay for it. Mom, that's my car, why did you drive my car? No actually, that's our car because we pay for it. That's my room, so I can lock the door anytime I want to. Well, no I pay for the house, so I can unlock the door and come in anytime I want to. At the end of the day while I pay the bills it is all mine. When you are out of your own you are free to do whatever you please.

Beloved, in an even greater way, everything is the Lord's! Even the breath in our lungs is on loan from God! There is incredible freedom in that, because that means I don't have to worry about anything! How many adults would love to go back and be a kid and let someone else pay the bills and cook the meals a little while?! When I was at home I had it made! In fact, anytime my mother wants to cook a meal for us now I'm in! God's sovereignty, His authority over all things, and the recognition of His incredible steadfast love toward us is what FREES US!

### **Titus 2:14**

(Christ) gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

We don't actually own anything, we are OWNED! So when God says to

GIVE – I don't have a choice  
SERVE – I have no other option  
INVITE – I don't get a say

It might seem like I do in this temporary moment in which we live, but may we ever be cognizant of the fact that WE WILL ANSWER TO OUR MASTER FOR ALL OF THIS. WE WILL BE JUDGED ON WHAT WE HAVE DONE ON THIS EARTH.

So, the very reason we should long to seek the **FACE OF GOD** is because we recognize that **ALL OF LIFE BELONGS TO GOD.**

### **2. SEEKING GOD'S FACE MEANS PURSUING HIS PURITY**

In verses 3-4 David asks the supreme question of life? Who can ascend the hill of the Lord and who can stand in His holy place?

Keep in mind the context, David is assuming his rightful place as the king of Israel in Jerusalem, and as He takes over the palace for the first time and walks into the King's throne room for the first time He immediately thinks about the throne room of God. To come into David's throne room and approach him with something was by invite only. You didn't just march into the palace of the King, and when you were invited you shall not bring a matter before the King in a disrespectful manner. The King would not abide trifling matters being brought into His throne room. As He considers this His mind turns to Heaven and he says, "Wow, who shall ascend to the hill of the Lord and who can stand in His holy place?!"

Isaiah 6 – Isaiah got a vision of the throne room of the Lord. Jesus was high and lifted up, the train of His robe filling the temple, smoke filled the Temple, and he saw angelic creatures surrounding Him and they were crying out incessantly "HOLY. HOLY, HOLY!" God's throne room is a holy place! God's presence is a holy presence!

Holiness is God's infinite otherness. God is not a man that He should lie or a son of man that he would change his mind. His ways are not our ways and his thoughts not our thoughts. He is pure and righteous and whole in a way that is beyond our comprehension. In Him is light and truth and perfection and in Him there is no darkness or shadow at all. I'm convinced if we could get just a glimpse of his holiness, like Isaiah, everything about us would change. The way we talk, the walk we walk, the way we love, the way we serve, the way we give, and the way we live. And He talks about that here.

### **YOU DON'T TRIFLE WITH GOD'S HOLINESS!**

#### **Leviticus 19:2**

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

#### **Ecclesiastes 5:1-2**

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. <sup>2</sup> Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

### **Clean Hands – Right ACTIONS**

David talks about our need to have clean hands, this speaks of Christ honoring actions. In our horizontal living we desire to walk in integrity and be in right relationship with others.

### **Pure Heart – Right ATTITUDE**

A pure heart speaks of right motivation, a Christ-like humble attitude. You can do the right actions but have the wrong attitude. You can attend church, give, serve, read your bible and pray and do it all out of selfish motives. How we approach God's church and His people is indicative of our approach to God.

### **Doesn't lift up his soul to what is false – Right AMBITION**

The word FALSE here can be translated VANITY. As David looked around the palace he recognized just how rich he now was. He was incredibly blessed with wealth and prosperity, but as he gazes at all these things he is quickly reminded just how empty those things were. He says, "I don't want to give my soul to pursue riches and wealth and the applause of mankind." Holiness means having the right ambition in life, it's the overarching desire to hold tightly to God and His word and hold very loosely to the material things of this life.

### **MISSIONARY EXAMPLE**

An American Christian man went on a mission trip with his church to a remote part of Africa. When the American arrived there, he went to the missionary's home he and the team would be working with on the trip. It was a little 300 square foot one room block structure with a thatch roof. All the missionary had was a table, a chair, a bed, and a

little pallet. The man asked "where is all of your furniture?" And the missionary thought for a minute and asked, "Where is all of your furniture?" The man responded, "I don't have any furniture with me, I'm just passing through." The missionary looked at him and said, "So am I."

Beloved, this is not our home, we are just passing through. And one day we are going to stand before God and give an account for this life. I want to be found by him with a humble Christ-like attitude and I want to be found holding loosely to the things of this life.

For those who live with a humble servant's heart and who recognize everything is God's – what is the result of that? BLESSING!

### **3. SEEKING GOD'S FACE MEANS TRUSTING HIS GENEROSITY**

#### **Matthew 7:11**

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

David doesn't specify here what the blessing is, just simply that whoever seeks the face of the Lord will be blessed. Jesus is the blessing.

#### ***Righteousness***

Righteousness is received not achieved.

Jesus paid for our righteousness with His blood

The Father credits righteousness to us when we place faith in Christ

The Spirit seals our righteousness through regeneration (born again)

Righteousness is received not achieved