

## Daily Devotional, September 8, 2020 One Day With God

***Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. Psalm 84:10 (NIV)***

Have you ever had a really crummy day? I imagine many of you can think of a whole string of them taking place over these past months since the Covid -19 outbreak came on the scene. Even before or possibly since the pandemic struck, maybe you have slept through your alarm, spilled something on your pants or skirt before you left home and had to change your clothes after you were already running late. Maybe you tried to make a yellow light and got stopped by a police officer. Possibly you were absent minded enough to have missed an important appointment or meeting. Or an accident on the roadways delayed you to the point that you missed your flight.

Then again, it could have been one small thing that started the snowball rolling downhill. You stubbed your toe on the bathroom door, pushed the grocery shopping cart too far and hit someone in the ankle causing some bitter cursing, did not have enough money in your debit account to cover the bill, or accidentally bit your tongue while eating lunch causing enough pain to make finishing your meal too painful. Every one of these examples is a bummer, and we would love to think every one of them was not our fault—just dumb luck.

These are not the "good old days" that we cherish so much. Most often, these are times we would surely wish we could forget. Yet, despite it all, God speaks about a great day that is coming in our future, and God makes a comparison between that day and all other days. This verse from Psalm 84 gives us this to look forward to: "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere." Now, if this were a mathematical term, it would break down to mean that one day with the Lord is better than any *three years* anyplace!

Now I have to admit that I have had some pretty great days: camping on the beach in Palos Verdes; scuba diving in Acapulco and the Virgin Islands; witnessing the grandeur of the Grand Canyon, The National Parks of Utah, and Glacier National Park. I have gazed at the evening stars in remote areas where the Milky Way and numerous shooting stars have been visible; witnessed a space launch; have attended numerous exhilarating pro and college sporting events; got married to a wonderful woman (hand-picked by God); have enjoyed some amazing vacations; witnessed the Chicago Cubs finally win the World Series; watched both of my children being born, have grown up having Chicago style pizza available to me in all of its amazing forms on so many different days; and more! But 1,000 of those days all put together cannot be and will not be better than one day with our Lord in heaven.

When we try our best to fathom God's goodness, His glory and His magnitude--we understand that it is far, far better, not even close to a comparison of all of these other really great days days combined. And that is because God is good—BETTER than good! Let's take a moment to stop and contemplate God's goodness. I then I want to challenge you to take the time to list 5 reasons why God is so good, and then share these things with God in prayer. Don't stop until you have shared at least 5 with Him. Once you have, I hope you will carry those with you in gratitude for all that we have been gifted with by our creator.

***Prayer: Dear God, thank you for your amazing power and work in my life, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over me. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening me for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you for all of the amazing moments and days and years that you have given me. Forgive me for those days when I don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help me to set my eyes and my heart on you in new ways. Renew my spirit and fill me with your peace and joy. This day and every day, may I offer you my praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen.***