

Daily Devotional, September 16, 2020

'Spiritual Pilgrimage', (Psalm 84:5-7)

“Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.”
(Psalm 84:5-7, NKJV)

The spiritual pilgrimage begins the moment the sinner is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The pilgrim goes on God's strength, crying out in prayer and saying, *“Strengthen me according to Your word”* (Psalm 119:28). To this the Lord replies, *“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand”* (Isaiah 41:10). The pilgrim has a renewed heart which is set for the journey at hand (Ezekiel 36:26). *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 3:20).

The Christian life is a passing through this world to the eternal home in the next. As we journey, we seek God's purpose in our lives. Our Savior prays for us, saying, *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world”* (John 17:17-18). Much of this earthly odyssey is a passing *“through the Valley of Baca.”* It is the valley of weeping over sin's results and life's travails. But take heart, for *“His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning”* (Psalm 30:5).

As we continue the journey, the pilgrim goes *“from strength to strength.”* Those who stay on the straight path become stronger in the Lord as they become more like Him. *“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:12-14). One day, at last, it is written of everyone who embarks on spiritual pilgrimage, *“Each one appears before God in Zion.”*