**Connect Study - Home At Your Altar**

Ps 84: 1-4 says How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise. (ESV)

Even the sparrow finds a home near the altar of God. Home speaks of:

* Comfort -- comfortable bed, etc
* Covering—protected from storm, etc
* Costs—household bills or responsibilities.

1. Home in the presence of God

Psa 91:1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty

Psalm 91 goes on to speak about protection from illness, harm and the blessings of God but the key is the word, “dwell”. We must dwell, abide and live in the presence of God not just make an occasional visit. We need to ask ourselves if we are comfortable in the presence of God.

1. Home in God’s house

God’s house should be our home. Psa 23: 6 says “Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”.

God’s house should be our home. It is the place where our character is shaped. There are some things that can only take place when we humble ourselves in relationships. To make God’s house our home is not about attendance, it’s about heart commitment. We need to be planted in the house of God. Psa 92:13 says “Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God”.

1. Home in God’s word

Psa 119:89 says “Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens”. We need to dwell in the word of God through journaling and studying His Word. The alternative could be resorting to counterfeit things such as alcohol, unhealthy relationship to find comfort.

We also need to ask, “is God at home in us?”. John 14:23 says “Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them”. The Apostle Paul declares “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me”.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. When you are travelling, what do you miss about home?
2. Do you dwell in God’s presence? What does that look like?
3. Are you planted in the house of God or are you simply a visitor? What are the costs of making the church our home?
4. When you are in pain, what do you turn to for comfort? Share an experience when the word of God brought you great comfort in times of pain.
5. Can God say “I am comfortable in you”? If not, what do you need to change to make God at home in you.