

“WATER IN THE WILDERNESS”

1. Have you ever experienced a dry spell in your spiritual journey? How did it feel, and what impact did it have on your relationship with God?

2. Reflect on the idea that many Psalms were born out of difficulty. How does this resonate with your own experiences, and what encouragement can be drawn from this?

3. Charles Spurgeon's plaque in his bedroom had Isaiah 48:10, "I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." What do you think this verse means, and how can it apply to your own life?

4. According to Romans 5:3-5, how does suffering contribute to our spiritual growth and character development?

5. Psalm 84 expresses a longing for the house of the Lord. Discuss the significance of the Psalmist's desire for God's presence in the temple. How can you relate to this longing in your own worship?

6. James 4:8 emphasizes drawing near to God. Share a personal experience when drawing near to God had a profound impact on your spiritual life.

7. Reflect on the idea that theology should begin and end with seeking God's presence, as mentioned by Dr. Dennis Kinlaw. How does your prayer life reflect your true beliefs about God?

8. Discuss the challenge posed by Dr. Kinlaw: "The most important thing Christians ever do is pray." How central is prayer in your life, and how does it impact your relationship with God?

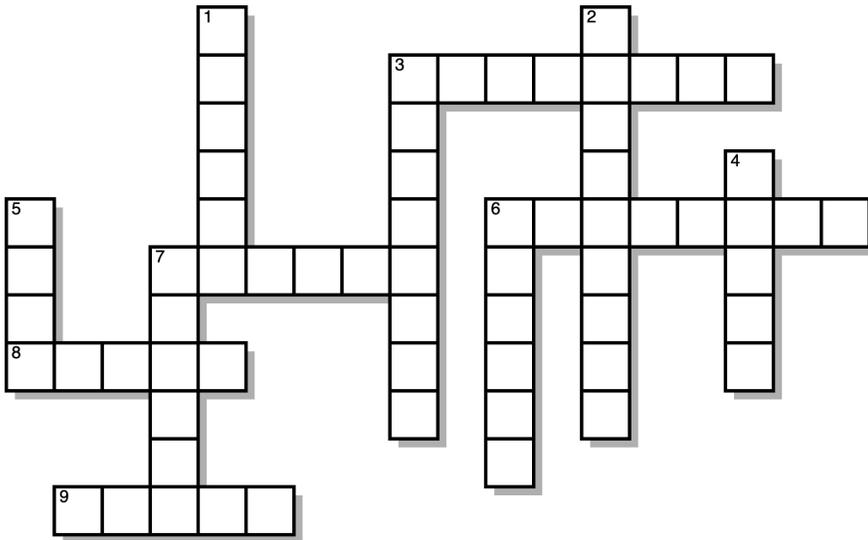
9. Examine Psalm 84:11, emphasizing the importance of a blameless walk. How does holiness contribute to a closer relationship with God? What does James 4:8 tell us to cleanse? Why?

10. Acts 2:42 and Hebrews 10:25 highlight the significance of fellowship and meeting together. In what ways does participating in a Christian community contribute to your spiritual journey?

11. Reflect on the promise in John 6:35 and John 4:14 about Jesus quenching our thirst. How are these promises realized in the life of the believer?

12. Consider the imagery of God's relationship with us as a bridegroom and bride. How does this depict intimacy, and what level of closeness are you willing to pursue with God?

13. Have you ever felt spiritually, emotionally, or mentally dry? How can the resources from another world break through the dryness in your life?



DOWN

1 "My soul yearns, even faints, for the _____ of the Lord" (84:1)

2 "no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is _____" (84:11)

3 "Better is one day in your courts than a _____ elsewhere;" (84:10)

4 The psalmist is jealous of these, who have such free access to the temple.

5 This valley symbolized a place of great dryness.

6 This man carried away into exile often prayed facing the holy city.

7 "The psalms portray Israel at _____." (Kinlaw)

ACROSS

3 "it is when we pray that we find out what we really believe, what our _____ actually is." (Kinlaw)

6 "How lovely is your _____ place, Lord Almighty!" (84:1)

7 Dr. Dennis Kinlaw said that the place to begin reading the Old Testament theologically is with the book of _____.

8 The swallow found a nest for herself near God's _____." (84:3)

9 This psalm is attributed to the sons of _____.

WORD SEARCH:

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|------------|------------|
| Dwelling | Rains |
| Temple | Zion |
| Lord | Prayer |
| Almighty | Jacob |
| Soul | Shield |
| Courts | Favor |
| Sparrow | Anointed |
| Swallow | Doorkeeper |
| Praise | Tents |
| Strength | Wicked |
| Pilgrimage | Sun |
| Baca | Honor |
| Springs | Blameless |
| Autumn | Trusts |

V P G N I L L E W D R O V A F
 X B I B N B Y S L C O U R T S
 Q L Q L A B T S T P Z M E Y P
 D A U C G S H Z W I M S W H K
 O M A O U R G S O A I E T Z R
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