

Crossroads and the Faith Journey

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight O Lord my rock and my redeemer

Kia mitaki foki kia koe e tau kupu he haku gutu, mo e tau manamanatu he haku loto, Iehova na e, ko e haku a maka tumau mo e haku a lukutoto.

Amene.

God is good.

All the time.

Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah

May we take this moment to pass the peace...please turn to the person next to you, shake hands and say peace be with you.

My text for today is from both our readings this morning. Psalm 84 and 2 Timothy 4: 16-18, which God has placed on my heart to share with you.

The Book of Psalms is written by a group of authors with David being the main contributor. He is credited with writing about half of the 150 Psalms and some of these can be a bit more obvious than the others like Psalm 23, The Lord is my shepherd. David's artistic creativity in poetry is a distinct feature in the Book of Psalms, as we know.

So let us have a look at Psalm 84 verses 1-7: where there is Praise – verse 1 (How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!).

There is worship – verse 3 (Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God.)

And there is encouragement for us as believers – verse 7 (They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion).

Sometimes we travel on this journey we call life and we hit certain landmarks or crossroads and we think hmmm which way now?

Left...right... straight...go back where we came from maybe?

Take a left and a right and well sometimes, we can end up struggling to read the directions as God intended for us to read.

Let us see how sometimes being at the crossroads can take you to the place that you need to be on your knees.

When God has a calling and He literally gives us the signs...like these (*see signs ppt*). He is really telling us to take a knee and pray... that is the best we can do...to take a knee and pray.

Psalm 84 reminds us that through all the drama, the stress and the challenges that the Israelites were facing at the time they made it. Even though we do not reach that far ahead in our Bible Reading today, we can look at Psalm 84: 11. We are told that God is a sun and shield, we heard Jeronyy speak earlier about the armour of God. God takes us by the hand and He is the one walking beside us in everything that we do.

2 Timothy 4: 17 But God stood at my side and gave me strength.

Looking around today, we are able to say that each and every one of us carries a rich history, a history of life as children, going to school as 5 or 6 year olds or of being home schooled. Some of us wore shoes and some wore none, some walked a stony path and others were driven or rode a horse maybe.

Growing into our teens we endured life and the worldly things attached to that life some good some bad but always with the freedom to choose which way.

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The Israelites were the same and no doubt that there would have been children and young people on that pilgrimage. We all have a journey of life and we are all at different stages of that journey.

(PPT references of Journeying with God).