


# REVIVE!



**Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16**

What do you desire most at this point of your life? You might say a lovely cream tea or a slice of walnut cake from our Howard's Well. Or maybe you would express a deeper desire such as improved health, a companion, or people you know coming to faith in Jesus.

Psalms 84 says that our deepest human desire is to meet with God. *'My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God* (verse 2).

Maybe we are aware of this and we long to know God more deeply. Maybe we had a deep passion for God in the past and we would like it to be renewed. How do we cultivate such a deep, sometimes unconscious, yearning?

*"The Book of Psalms is ... a virtual literary temple. You enter the Psalms to meet with God, and to hear the entire Biblical story of His kingdom, sung back to you in poetry!"* (Bible Project). Doesn't that sound glorious?

Psalms 84 also acknowledges we are on a pilgrimage, and that sometimes on the

journey we go through the 'Valley of Baca,' a word that means 'weeping' (verses 5 & 6). Yet through hard times, God provides 'springs' and the refreshment of 'autumn rains' (verse 6) and we come out the other side strengthened and transformed (verse 7).

At every stage of our journey, we can meet God, and deepen our relationship with Him, and the Psalms are a guide and help for us at each step. Walter Brueggemann has famously said the Psalms can be categorised as songs of **ORIENTATION, DISORIENTATION and REORIENTATION.**

There are Psalms that give us a solid foundation, that help us praise and trust Him. There are others that guide us through times of anguish and perplexity. And there are those which express the change God brings as we come through hard times.

Shall we journey together, come into His temple, and meet with Him ... in the Psalms?

*With love and prayers, David*

## Solid Rock!



If you were marooned on a desert island and could choose only ten books from the Bible, would one of them be the Book of Psalms? Luther said *“they are the Bible in miniature.”* They tell us everything about God, His character and His ways, His unfailing love, His faithfulness that will not let us go, His holiness and heart for justice. Can you think of others?

The Book of Psalms is the easiest book in the Bible to find. Open it in the middle, and there it is, in the heart of the Bible. It is the temple into which He welcomes us, to know Him better. The Praise Psalms (of which there are about forty) especially help us to do that. They give reasons why we can praise Him. Psalms like 117, *‘Praise the Lord ... **FOR** great is His love towards us’,* and *‘His faithfulness endures forever.’* Other Praise Psalms include 8, 33 and 145-150. Psalms of Trust that express confidence in God do that too, e.g. *‘The Lord is my light and my salvation, the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?’* (Psalm 27:1). Psalms 23, 16, and 131 are other wonderful examples. So are Psalms that speak of Him as King, on the throne. Psalms like 2, 18, 96-99, 110 and 144. All these Psalms put our lives on a solid foundation. They **ORIENTATE** our lives on the dependable Rock that is our loving God.

Choose one of these psalms. Take time to read it slowly. What does it say about God? How does it invite you to come home, welcomed into His presence? Turn what you read into praise and worship. Rest in His presence.

## That Sinking Feeling ...

Surprisingly, over 45% of all the Psalms express pain and anguish. They are normally called Laments. The Psalmist is **DISORIENTATED** by what is happening around him or in himself, by things like illness, betrayal, persecution or abandonment. Questions like ‘why’ and ‘how long’ abound, and the Psalmists are 100% honest about how they feel, even to the point of expressing hatred towards those responsible for their misfortunes, or accusing God when they feel abandoned by Him.

The depths of these feelings can shock us! *‘May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow’* (Psalm 109:9). *‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’* (Psalm 22:2). Incredibly, God prefers our raw honesty than religious platitudes, when He knows other things are churning up our hearts.



Like a good Father who is more than happy to take his hurting child in his arms, His chest is strong enough to handle our little pummelling fists and His heart is big enough to understand what is really going on inside of us. He wants us to express honestly what we feel, completely, and so grow in our relationship with Him. In this place we find we are truly loved. We find He speaks to us. We find forgiveness and the strength to forgive others.

# Have you played your (H)ARP today?

**R**ead Psalm 13 as an example of a Lament Psalm and see how they broadly have three components:

**Argue with God (verse 1-4).**  
Only complete honesty permitted!

**Remember, what God has done, or who He is, despite all these crazy thoughts and feelings I have (verse 5).**

**Praise, as I remember and bring God into the picture (verse 6). I may not feel like praising, but it will bring me perspective and freedom.**



## CHALLENGE: Write a Lament Psalm

Take five minutes for each of these three steps. Bring something that is currently unsettling or causing you grief. Or something deeper from your past.

**Step 1: ARGUE: Be completely honest about how you feel.**

**Step 2: REMEMBER: Be discerning.**

**Step 3. PRAISE: Even, and maybe especially, at times such as these, God welcomes you into His presence, His Temple.**

## Turning Point!



**W**hen we come through difficult times in our walk with God, He often brings us to a new place. Our relationship with Him is deeper, and our foundation in Him more solid. We sense that God has done something new in us, and see that the world is not closed, but open to wonder and gift.

Many Psalms give expression to this **REORIENTATION** that God wants to bring into our lives as we journey with Him. Characteristically, they are the Thanksgiving Psalms such as 40, where God has lifted the psalmist out of the pit. A new song of praise rises up because God has answered his prayer and done something new in his life. Read verses 1-10 and note the deeper understanding of God's character and good plans, a new sense of wonder and surrender to God, renewed worship and strength, as well as relationships.

Psalm 73, in twenty eight short verses, expresses a difficult journey through pain and questioning into new perspectives about evil, oneself, and even God. The psalmist defines what's good in the end, not in terms of physical possessions, health or prosperity as he did at the beginning, but in terms of **'being near God'** (verse 28). The turning point happened when he came into the presence of God – through the psalms, God reorients us!

Take a moment to meditate on one of these psalms. Is there something new you sense God wants to bring into your life? Ask Him to refresh you, and impart a sense of the new thing He has for you.



# God at work!

## It does what it says on the tin!



God's provision, healing & worship  
Revelation 22:1-3

**22.2:** God's vision for the healing of the nations – God's provision, healing and worship (Revelation 22:1-3). These are all experiences we at CCHC, and countless others, enjoy daily.

**God's provision:** His goodness, grace and more, flowing from the throne.

**God's healing:** It's His desire to heal, and one day there will be no more pain, sickness or death!

**God's worship and service:** In response to God's love, we offer ourselves.

### See what God is doing at CCHC!

God has said, '*open wide your gates*', '*enlarge the site of your tent*' and '*praise Him!*' The result of this is that CCHC is now open to the public five days a week for our daily service of healing and worship, called 22.2, delicious nibbles from Howard's Well, enjoyment of our spacious grounds, and the opportunity to receive prayer. Praise the Lord with a song or a dance! Clap your hands, tap your toes and shout aloud! Our first two weeks have been brilliant! Despite the mixed weather, and being outside, guests have still come – praise the Lord! What joy! Prayers answered! Villagers, regulars, AND newcomers, have enjoyed CCHC's excellent hospitality ... breakfast, cakes and refreshments too.

Each day we have had a small congregation at the 22.2 service, enjoying the Lord's presence with Stephen or Pippa on the ivories in Spirit-led

worship, and people have dropped in for prayer. We've always said ... the Lord brings those **HE** wants here. He is so faithful and those He brings receive something from Him. Receive this as an invitation or tell others to come – the welcome at CCHC is such a blessing after this past year, and so healing.

Our first two live streamed services have been watched by nearly 350 people, with numbers growing. There's been the continuation of the anointed Elijah Quiet Days. We've also seen an increase of folk phoning in with names for prayer. They are prayed for each day alongside local, national and international situations that the Lord leads us to pray for. Residential bookings are also steadily increasing.

Raising our faith further, we have received Gift Aid money and Government Grant money, helping the fine balance of income and expenditure that keeps our eyes fixed on Jehovah Jireh – the Lord the Provider.

There is such a buzz in the air with great expectations of things to come.

### Give thanks to God with us!

## CCHC Prayer Requests

Give thanks for all the Lord is doing at and through CCHC. We pray ...

- ▶ **for an increased expectation of what God can do and for eyes to see Him do it;**
- ▶ **for guidance as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> July;**
- ▶ **that we are daily available to the Spirit of God and His guidance;**
- ▶ **in all we do, that we acknowledge that Jesus is sovereign, over all!**

### PERSONAL DETAILS

Please contact us on enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk or 01424 830204 if your details have changed, or if you no longer wish to receive these publications.

Contact details: 01424 830204



Website: [www.crowhursthealing.org.uk](http://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk)

Email: [enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@crowhursthealing.org.uk)