The Living God Ray Stedman

I. Introduction. Text: Psalm 84.

- II. The advantages of living with God.
 - A. The Israelites entered in spirit into the Holy of Holies.
 - 1. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. (II Corinthians 6)
 - 2. These advantages are made available to the Christian through faith.
 - B. The heart becomes lovely. It is easier to get along with this person.
 - C. The believer receives a joyful vitality.
 - 1. Whenever outward circumstances get boring, one must drink from the living God.
 - 2. A man can find an extraordinary sense of usefulness in God.
 - 3. The restless will only find their rest in God.
 - D. God is able to give Himself wholly to the believer.
 - E. God is at work in the heart of the believer.
 - 1. Power lies in the God who is behind prayer, not in prayer itself.
 - 2. The believer has power "all around." (Romans 8:28, Acts 1:8)

F. Men who learn the secret of usefulness make a highway for God to bring blessing to himself and to others.

- 1. They make valleys of weeping places of springs for others.
- 2. They grow in strength themselves.
- 3. God is made manifest through these people.
- G. It is right to pray for what God wants for you—the psalmist prays for this kind of life.
 - 1. Life is incomparably better.
 - 2. Whatever we need, God is. God gives the believer grace in order to bring him to glory.

Application questions:

1. Who is someone you know that exemplifies the useful man described in the Psalm? How are they a blessing to others?

2. How is God the answer to boredom?

3. In what ways have you been unable to live a life full of vitality and joy in God? What steps can you take in order to change this?