

Psalm 84:1-2

¹ *How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!*

² *My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.*

Psalm 122:1-9 A song of ascents. Of David.

¹ *I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."*

² *Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.*

³ *Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.*

⁴ *That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the Lord—to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel.*

⁵ *There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.*

⁶ *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.*

⁷ *May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."*

⁸ *For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."*

⁹ *For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.*



What does it mean to be a healthy church member? The answer is provided within today's scripture which is written by David. We can see how much David rejoices in the house of the Lord. This is one of many reasons why God blessed David. Let us look closely to the scripture and learn more about how to be a healthy church member.

1. Are You Glad to Come to Church?

When we look at early verses of Psalm 122, we see how much David is glad to gather in the house of the Lord.

- **Psalm 122:1**

¹ *I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."*

- **Psalm 122:2-3**

² *Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.*

³ *Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.*

We can see Israelites rejoicing as they remember their gathering at Zion.

- **Psalm 137:1**

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

Similarly, we see the Sons of Korah in Psalm 84, rejoicing in the house of the Lord.

- **Psalm 84:10**

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.



- Let's look at the image of student raising his hand in class. You can sense how happy the student is in learning new material.
- Let's look at the second image. This is an image of houses our parents may have lived long time ago. If a child did not have a great relationship with his parents, would he want to go back to his parents' home?
- A pastor asked one of members with physical disability. Is there anything that may bother you when you come to church? The deaconess answered the pastor, " I rejoice in coming to church to meet Jesus Christ."

As I think about our church opening back to normal on June 13th, it makes me so happy. It reminds me how Noah and his family members rejoiced as they were getting out of the ark. happiness as they got out of the ark. I pray that we will all come to church on June 13th with rejoicing hearts.

2. What is Your Purpose When Coming to Church?

Why do you come to church? We come to worship - to hear the word of God and to learn about His teachings. During worship, we must praise the Lord and lift His name!

- **Psalms 122: 4-5**
*⁴ That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the Lord—to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel.
⁵ There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.*
- **Deuteronomy 16:16**
Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed:

We are here because of Lord's grace and love. We must receive His blessings and His words through worship.

There was an elderly father who came to Seoul to visit his son. The son gave money to his father to tour the city and go to the movie theater. The father came back in 30 minutes. The son asked, " why are you back so early." The father replied, "I thought the city people were smart, but they are not. I went to several different theaters and they didn't even ask me to pay." Imagine if we came to church to just visit the building and look at the people. If we do this...that means we do not know the purpose of coming to church.

A little boy asked his father, "Dad, did Grandpa make you go to Sunday school when you were my age?" The father replied, "He sure did. We went every Sunday." The son replied back, "Well, I bet it won't do me any good to go to Sunday school." The father must of "visited" the church and did not know the true purpose of worship.



Let us look at the first image - hospital. Church is like a hospital. We come to church to be healed as we give worship to the Lord. He heals us with His words as He knows everything about us.

Let us look at the second image - gas station. Imagine if the car just looped around the station, will the tank be filled? Gas is the main source the car is able to run. Similarly we can only live as we receive His words every Sunday. We cannot live by bread alone. We must receive the Word of God.

You probably heard the words *herd immunity* - those who got vaccinated could gather and become immune to the virus. As a result, the whole community becomes protected — not just those who are immune. As we gather and give worship, the Lord will be pleased and will protect us.

- **Hebrews 10:25**

²⁵ *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

3. Do You Pray for the Church?

As a healthy member, do you pray for the church? Do you pray that the church will be at peace? We pray diligently about ourselves and our family. But do you pray for the House of the Lord?

- **Psalm 122:6-7**

⁶ *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure.*

⁷ *May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”*

- **Psalm 122:8-9**

⁸ *For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”*

⁹ *For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.*

Church is like our mothers. As we look at this image, we can sense the love this mother has for her child. The word, *Mother*, brings such positive and warm feelings.



Let's look at what Paul said about church:

- **Philippians 1:9-10**

⁹ *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,*

- **Philippians 1:11**

¹¹ *filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

I pray that our church will be filled with healthy members - praying for the church to have peace and let this place be filled with joy and fruit of righteousness.

- **Psalm 84:3-4**

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.*

⁴ *Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.*

In Summary, let us ask ourselves...**Am I a healthy church member?**

1. Are You Glad to Come to Church?

2. What is Your Purpose When Coming to Church?

3. Do You Pray for the Church?