A photograph of a small, white, wooden church with a steeple, situated in a field under a cloudy sky.

# **Who Needs The Church?**

*National Back To Church Sunday*

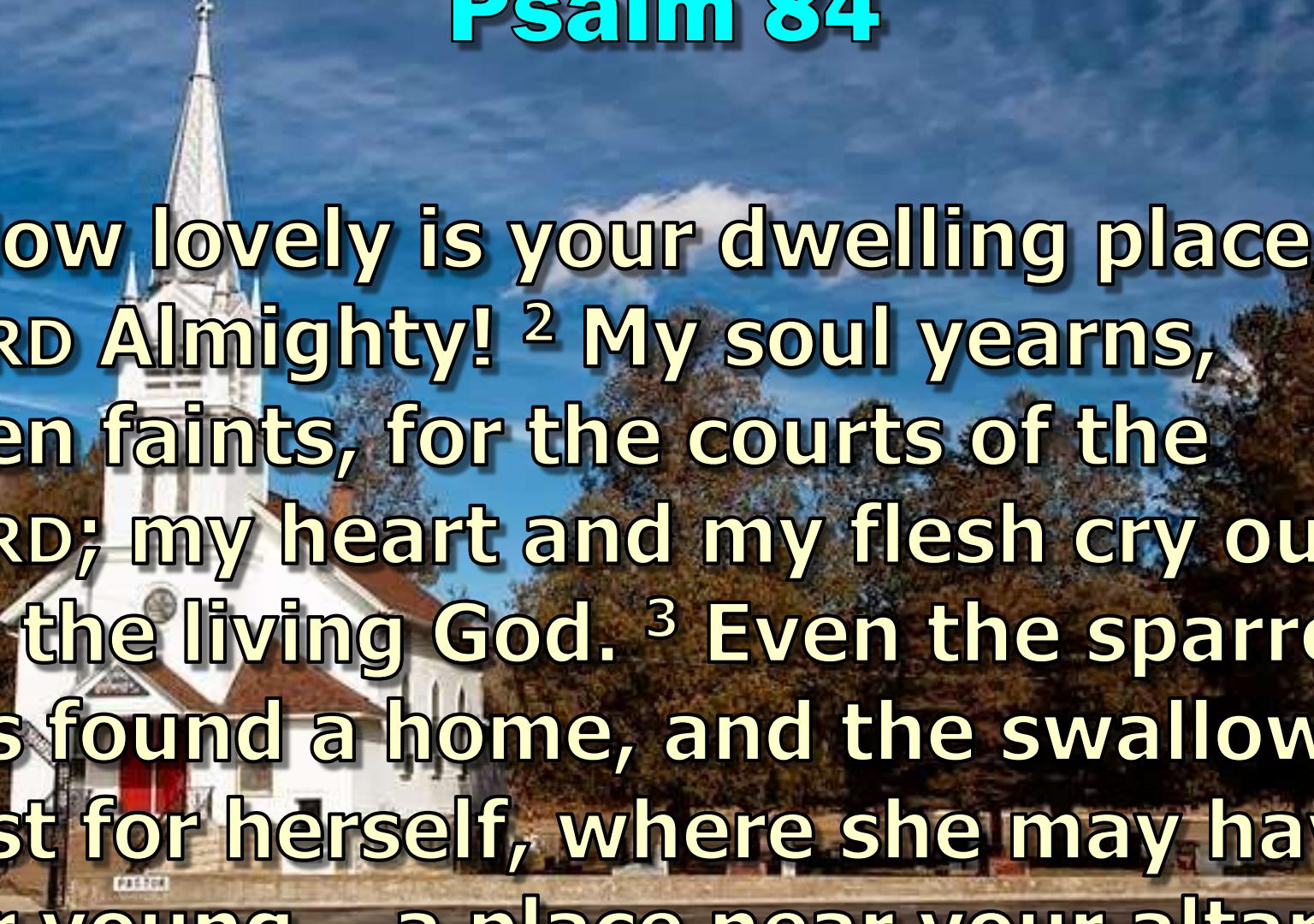
**Psalm 84**

**Anthony Grove Baptist Church**

**Dr. Dennis E. Bean**

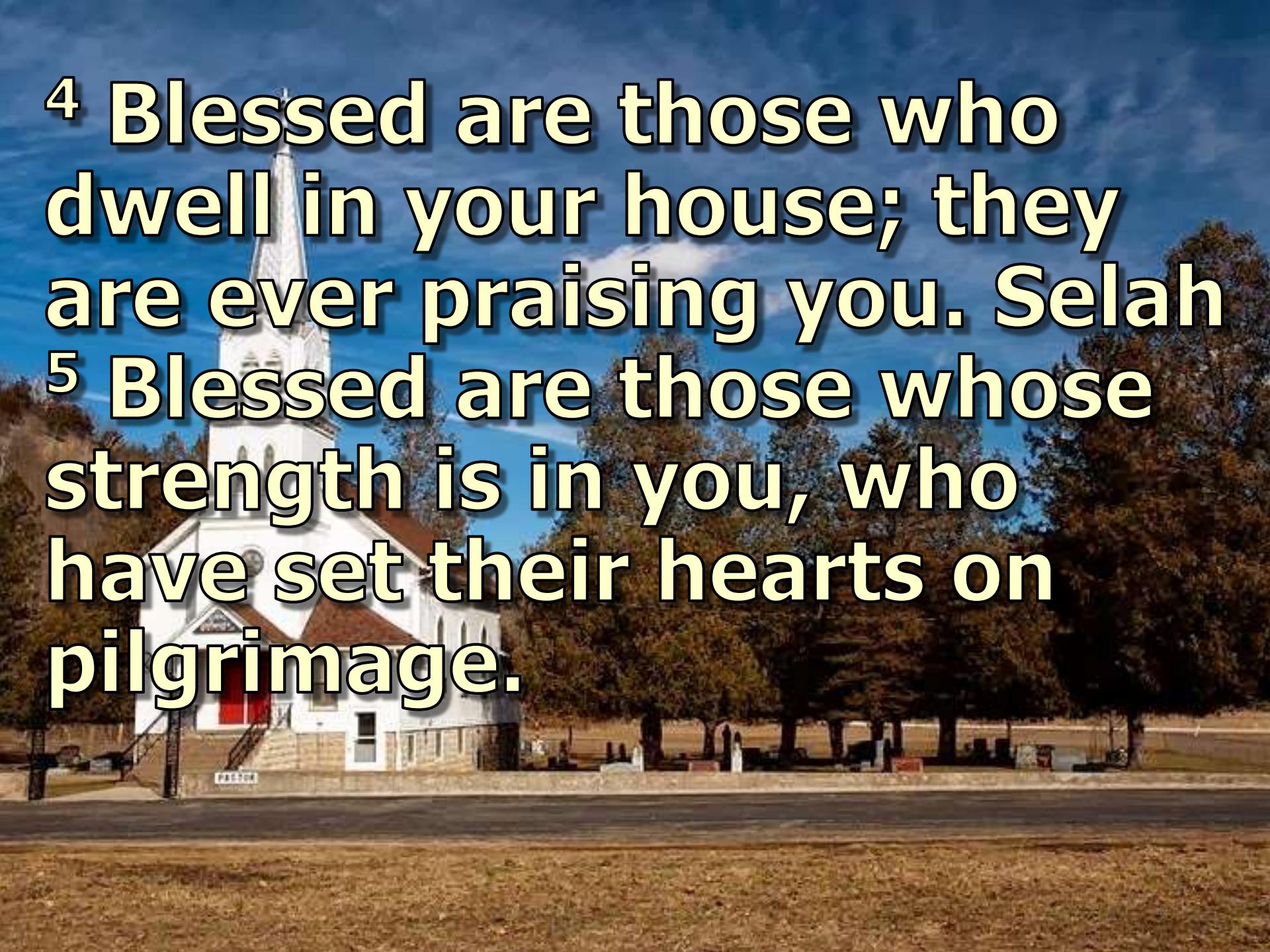
**September 20, 2015**

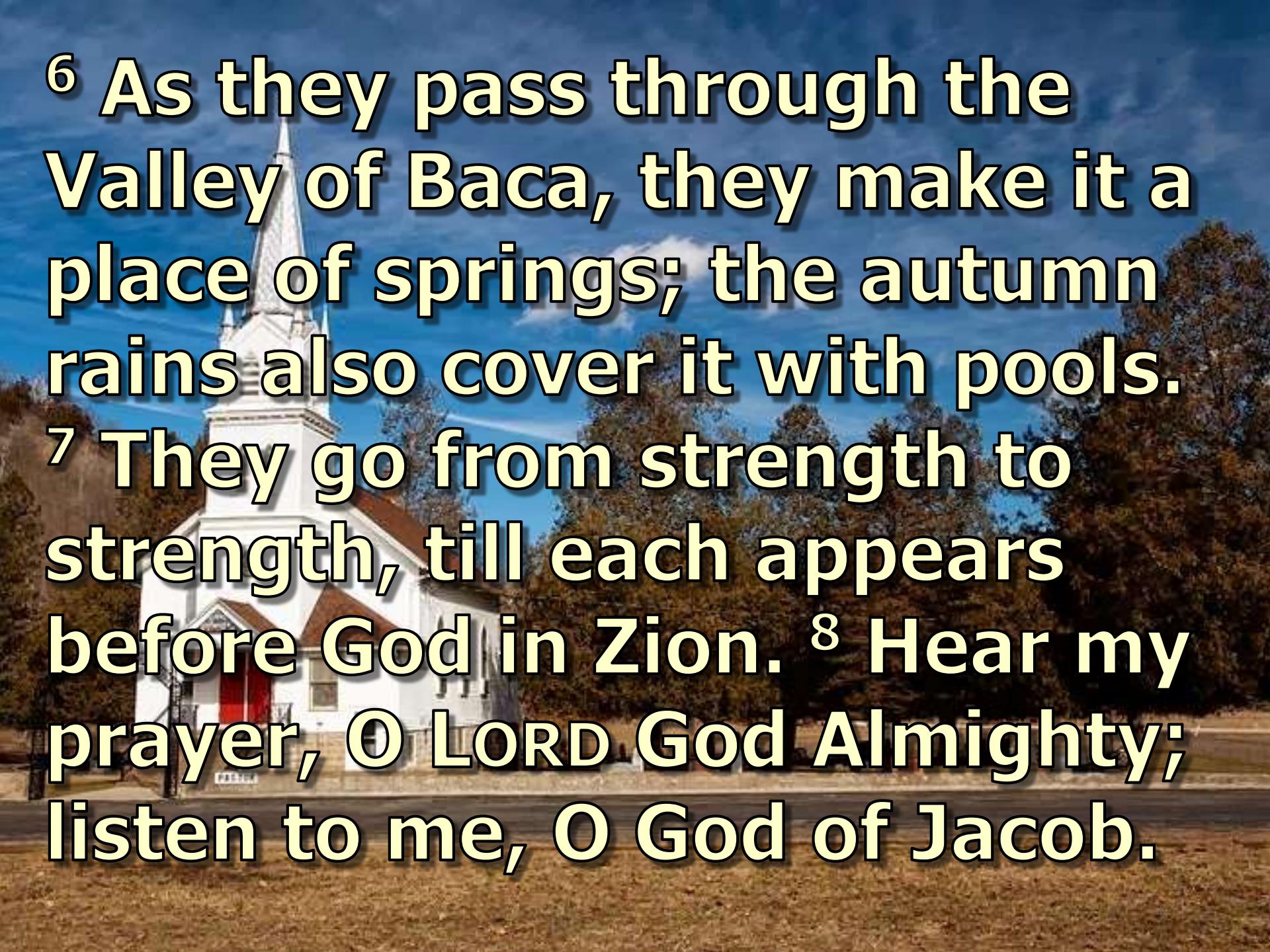
# Psalm 84



**1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O  
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. 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, O  
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.**

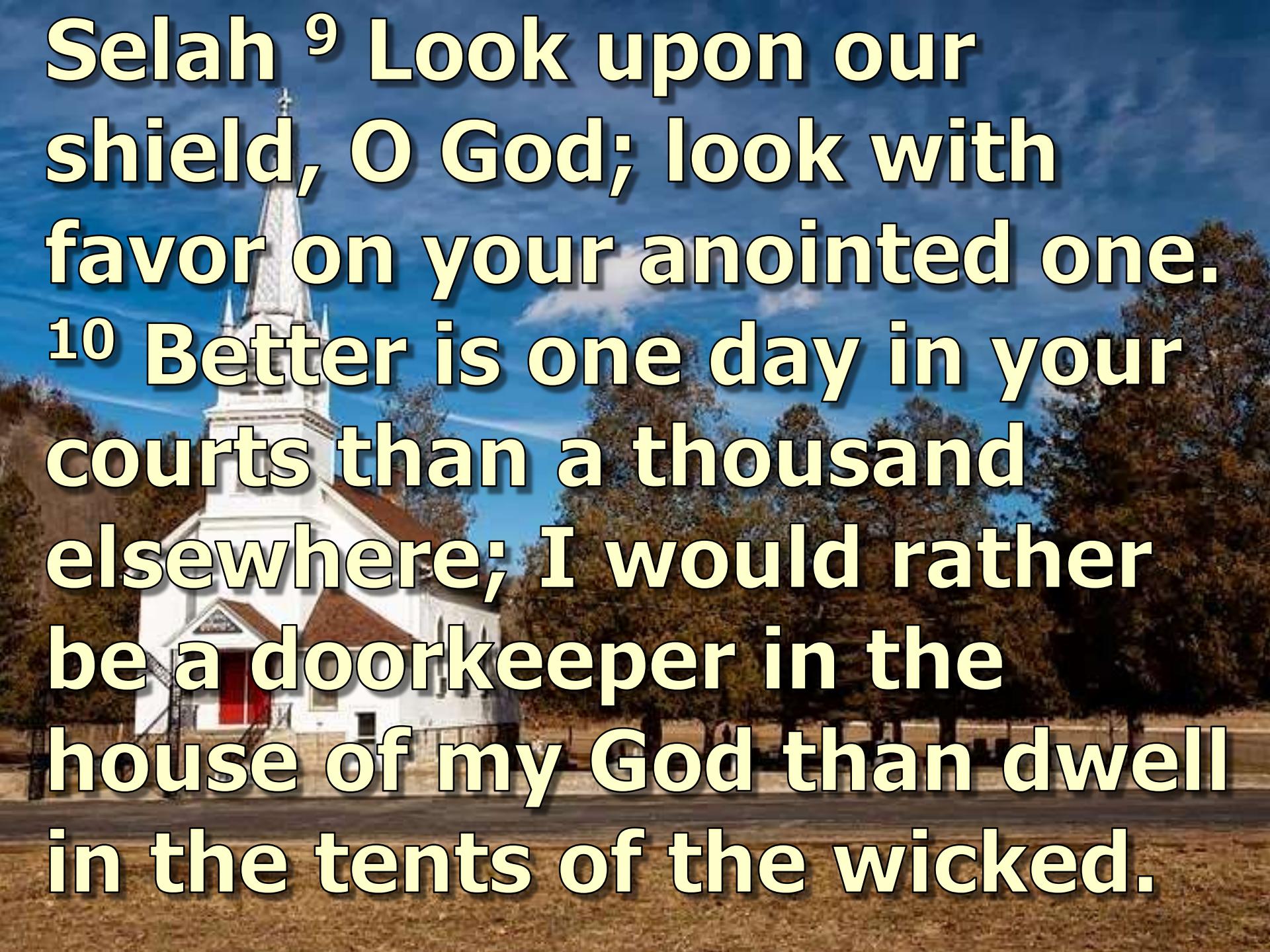
**4 Blessed are those who  
dwell in your house; they  
are ever praising you. Selah  
5 Blessed are those whose  
strength is in you, who  
have set their hearts on  
pilgrimage.**

A photograph of a white church with a red door and a steeple, surrounded by trees and a fence. The church is a simple, single-story structure with a gabled roof and a small entrance porch. The sky is blue with some clouds.



**6 As they pass through the  
Valley of Baca, they make it a  
place of springs; the autumn  
rains also cover it with pools.**

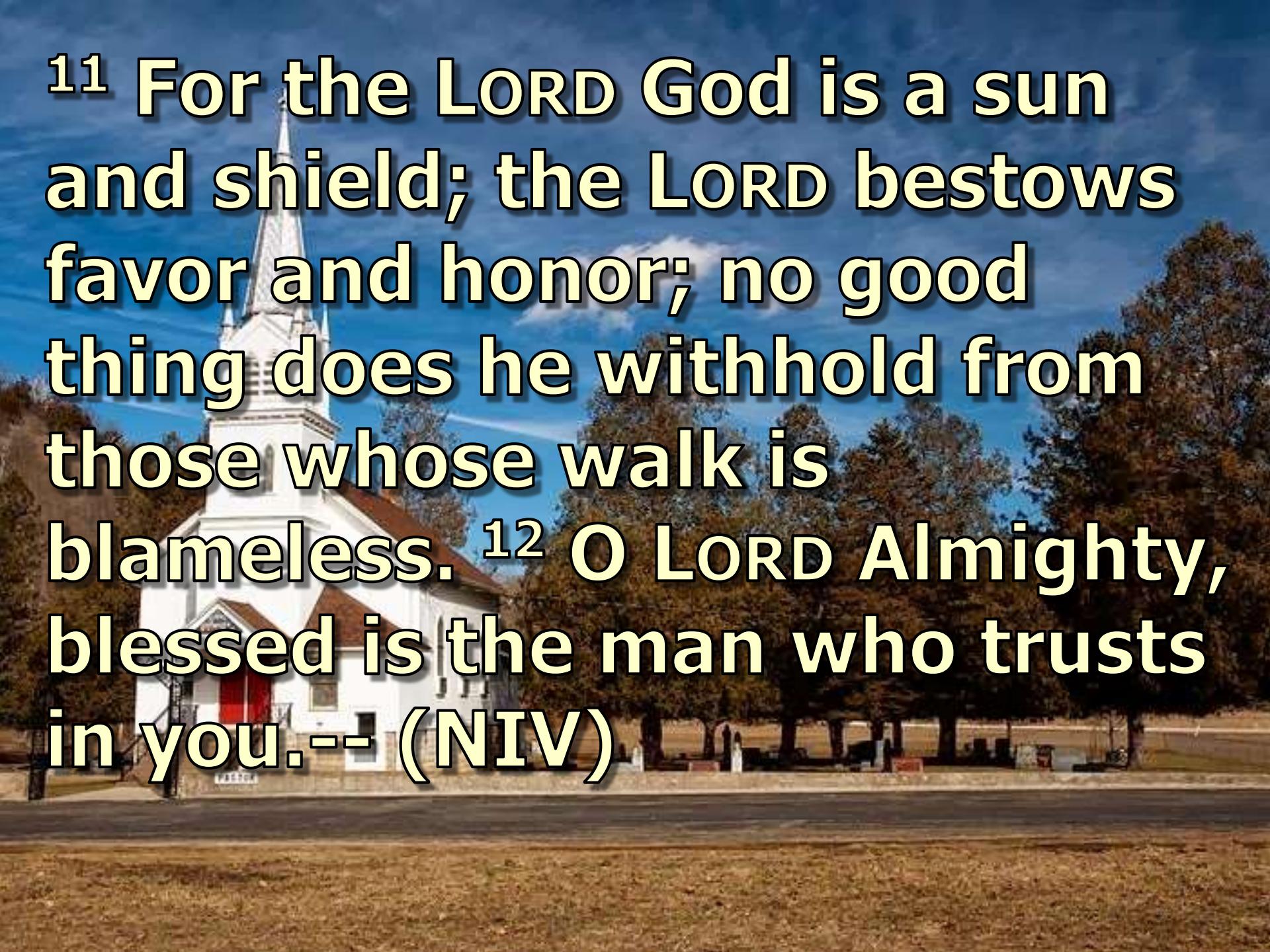
**7 They go from strength to  
strength, till each appears  
before God in Zion. 8 Hear my  
prayer, O LORD God Almighty;  
listen to me, O God of Jacob.**

A photograph of a white church with a prominent steeple, set against a backdrop of a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. The church is surrounded by trees with autumn-colored leaves.

**Selah<sup>9</sup> Look upon our  
shield, O God; look with  
favor on your anointed one.**

**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.**

**11 For the LORD God is a sun  
and shield; the LORD bestows  
favor and honor; no good  
thing does he withhold from  
those whose walk is  
blameless. 12 O LORD Almighty,  
blessed is the man who trusts  
in you.-- (NIV)**

A photograph of a white, single-story church with a prominent steeple and a red door. The church is surrounded by trees and a fence, set against a blue sky with some clouds. The image serves as a background for the biblical text.

# **Who Needs The Church?**



# **Two Types of Churches**

- 1. The Universal Church.**
- 2. The Local Church.**



# The Church Is God's Idea Not Man's

1. Jesus Established The Church.

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.-- (NIV)

## 2. Jesus Loves The Church.

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her-- (NIV)

**Ephesians 5:27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.-- (NIV)

A photograph of a white church with a tall, spire-shaped steeple. The church is surrounded by trees and a fence. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

### **3. God's Plan For The Future Is The Church!**

**Revelation 5:10 You have  
made them to be a kingdom  
and priests to serve our  
God, and they will reign on  
the earth.”-- (NIV)**

# 3 Affirmations of the Church

1. He Affirms A Longing For Church.

Psalm 84:1–2 <sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty! <sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.-- (NIV)

A photograph of a white church with a tall, spire-shaped steeple. The church has a red roof and a visible entrance. It is set against a backdrop of a blue sky with scattered white clouds and some trees with autumn-colored leaves.

**Psalm 122:1**

**I rejoiced with those  
who said to me, "Let  
us go to the house of  
the LORD." -- (NIV)**

A. God's House Is A Lovely  
Place.

Psalm 84:1 How lovely  
is your dwelling place,  
LORD Almighty!-- (NIV)

## B. God's House Is A Living Place.

Psalm 84:2 My soul yearns,  
even faints, for the courts  
of the LORD; my heart and  
my flesh cry out for the  
living God.-- (NIV)

A photograph of a white church with a tall, spire-shaped steeple. The church has a red roof and a small entrance area with a red door. It is set against a backdrop of a clear blue sky with some wispy white clouds. In the foreground, there is a grassy field.

**John 10:10**

**The thief comes only to  
steal and kill and  
destroy. I came that  
they may have life and  
have it abundantly.--**

**(ESV)**

**2. He Affirms Living In Church.**

**Psalm 84:4 Blessed  
are those who dwell  
in your house; they  
are ever praising  
you.-- (NIV)**



## A. Dwell In God's House For Parental Reasons.

Psalm 84:3 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.— (NIV)

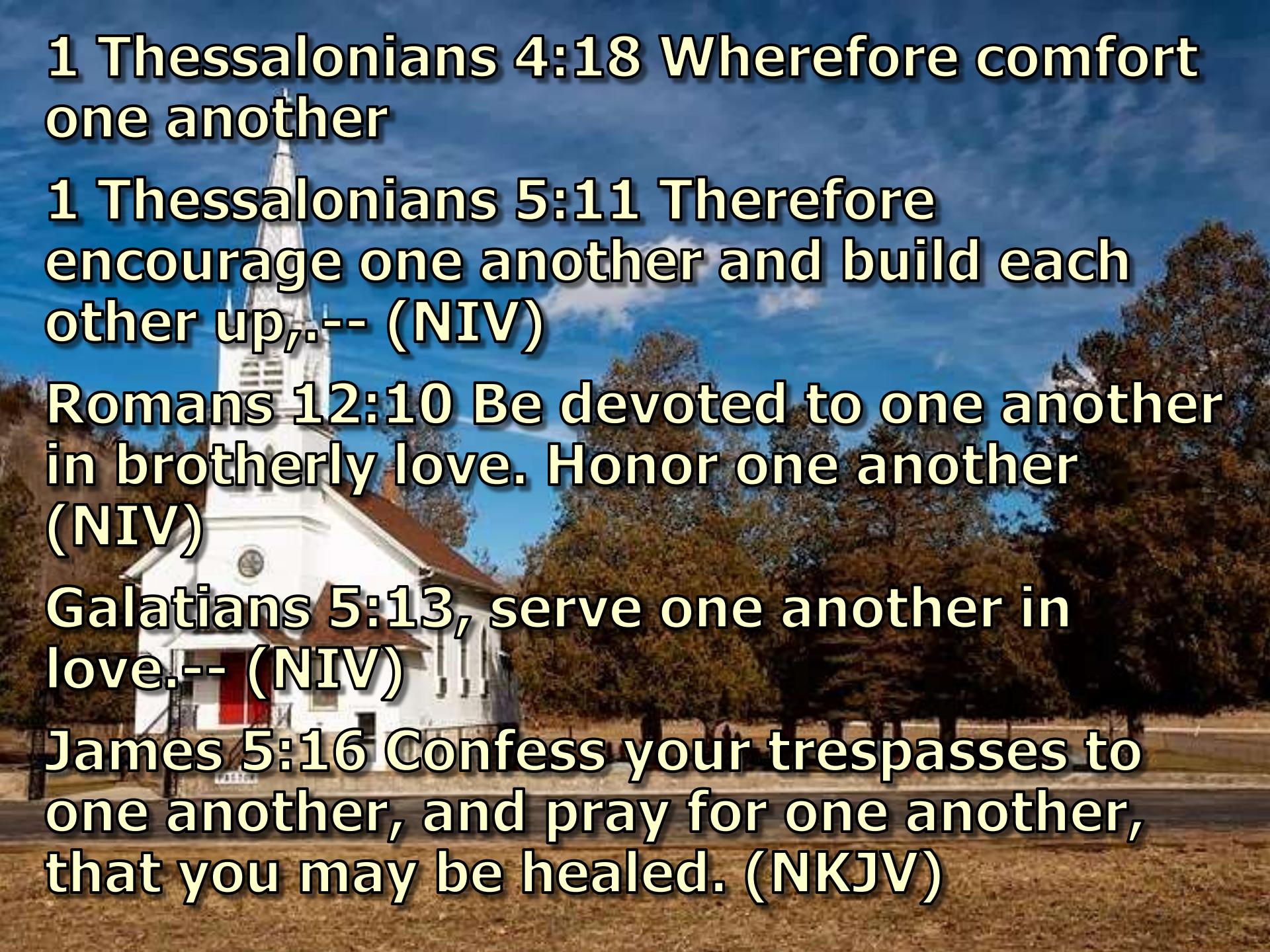
## Ephesians 6:4

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.-  
- (KJV)

## **B. Dwell In God's House For Painful Reasons.**

Psalm 84:6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.--  
(NIV)

**Baca = Weeping.**

A photograph of a white church with a steeple and a red roof, set against a backdrop of autumn-colored trees and a clear blue sky.

**1 Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,-- (NIV)**

**Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another (NIV)**

**Galatians 5:13, serve one another in love.-- (NIV)**

**James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (NKJV)**

**3. He Affirms Learning In  
Church.**

**A. You Learn About Strength.**

Psalm 84:7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.--  
**(NIV)**

A photograph of a white church with a tall, spire-shaped steeple. The church has a gabled roof with a small arched window. It is surrounded by trees with autumn-colored leaves. The sky above is a clear, pale blue with wispy white clouds.

## **Psalm 84:11**

**For the LORD God is a sun  
and shield; the LORD  
bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he  
withhold from those whose  
walk is blameless.-- (NIV)**

## **B. You Learn About Service.**

**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.--**

**(NIV)**

A photograph of a small, single-story wooden church with a prominent steeple and a cross at the top. The church has several dark-framed windows and a grey shingled roof. It is set in a vast, green field of tall grass. In the background, there are dark, scattered clouds in a blue sky. To the right of the church, a small, isolated white building is visible through the trees.

**Who Needs  
The Church?**