

BETTER THAN LIFE

Psalm 63:2–4

*So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.*

There are a few places in my life that I can still see vividly in my mind, even though I haven't been there in years. I was so moved by that location that my mind absorbed it into a special place in my memory. Now, I only have to close my eyes, and I can return to that place. Moreover, there are a select few of those places I would absolutely love to visit once again. I imagine being there would fill me with a great deal of emotion. Some would likely make me weep over the memories I had there. Still others would bring me peace and serenity. But, all of them would cause me joy and thankfulness. Do you have memories of places like that?

During Absalom's rebellion, David is both literally and figuratively in the wilderness, feeling weary and parched physically and spiritually. He is away from Jerusalem and the sanctuary of God's presence. During this desperate time, David seems to close his eyes and visualize being in Jerusalem in the presence of the Lord, and he is reminded of God's power and glory.

This experience focuses on David and brings him to one conclusion. The hesed of God is the greatest thing...ever. His covenant loyalty, complete faithfulness, and enduring graceful love are "better than life." That's a bold statement. Think of your favorite things on earth. David says God's hesed is better than that. Yes, even better than our physical life, where we experience all the pleasures and fulfillment creation offers. It is better than all of that. No one inherently wants to lose their life. Given the opportunity to live or die, the overwhelming response is LIVE! Why? Because we value our physical life. But there is something better than that.

There must be something better than physical life. Hesed! And the recognition of that leads us to one thing: A sacrificial life focused on worship with raised hands and faithful obedience.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

What is your response to the hesed of God?

Eyes up,
Ryan