

The Power of Commitment

Dwelling in God's Presence and Being Planted in His House

Bode Awogbade | 31 May 2026

Text: Psalm 84:1–5; Psalm 92:12–15

Opening

Today I want to speak about **the power of commitment to God and to His house**. We live in a time when so much is temporary, flexible, and easily abandoned. Yet God is still looking for people who will remain—people who will draw near, stay close, and be firmly planted in His presence. Ours is a generation full of options, distractions, and competing voices, but the call of God has not changed. He is still calling men and women to Himself. He is still building His church. And He still blesses those who dwell in His presence and are planted in His house.

Our main texts are Psalm 84:1–5 and Psalm 92:12–15.

Psalm 84 says, “How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord... Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Blessed are those whose strength is in you” (Psalm 84:1–5).

Psalm 92 adds, “The righteous will flourish like a palm tree... planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green” (Psalm 92:12–15).

These passages do not merely describe a place; they describe a posture of heart. They show us that strength comes from nearness, fruitfulness comes from rootedness, and blessing comes from abiding with God.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You for Your word. Speak to us in these few moments. Let the Holy Spirit make this word personal and living to each heart. Let it fall on good soil and produce fruit—thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold (Matthew 13:8, 23). In Jesus' name, Amen.

Central Truth

Those who dwell become blessed. Those who are planted begin to flourish. God's blessing is connected to commitment to His presence.

From the beginning, God created us for fellowship with Himself. Though sin separated us, He drew us back through Christ. But while God invites us near, the culture around us pushes

us toward convenience, independence, and spiritual casualness. Many want God's blessing without surrender, comfort without consecration, reward without relationship. Yet Jesus said plainly: *"...apart from Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:4–5).

What It Means to 'Dwell'

Psalm 84 says, *"Blessed are those who dwell in your house."* To dwell means to stay, remain, inhabit—to make God's presence your home. God is not seeking occasional visitors but people who live near Him.

Under the old covenant, the deepest encounter was not in the outer courts but in the Holy of Holies. Today, God still calls us from casual faith into deeper communion. James writes, *"Come near to God and he will come near to you"* (James 4:8).

Many people want intimacy with God, but intimacy requires closeness. If you stay near fire, the fire will affect you. In the same way, if you stay near God, His presence will shape you, refine you, and strengthen you. Psalm 16:11 says, *"In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."* If we want the joy, the peace, the direction, and the strength that God gives, we must learn to seek Him—not at a distance, but up close.

What It Means to 'Be Planted'

Flourishing is not random; it is connected to being planted. A tree cannot thrive if it keeps uprooting itself. Likewise, believers flourish when rooted in God's presence and planted in God's house.

We will spend the remaining moments explaining how to be planted in God's house – the local church.

1. Commitment

To be planted is to make God's house a priority, not an afterthought. The church is not merely an event we attend; it is the family of God, the household of faith (Ephesians 2:19). It is the place where we worship, grow, serve, learn, and belong. Hebrews 10:24–25 tells us not to give up meeting together, but to encourage one another—and all the more as we see the Day approaching. We do not gather because we have nothing else to do. We gather because God meets with His people, and His people need one another.

2. Consistency

Spiritual momentum is built through faithful attendance, regular prayer, steady worship, and ongoing exposure to the word of God. There is a strengthening that happens when believers remain in fellowship. We are sharpened, encouraged, corrected, and nourished. While we

can and should worship at home, God never designed Christian life to be lived in isolation. We are members of one body (1 Corinthians 12:12–27), and each part needs the others.

3. Receiving and Responding to God's Word

Every time believers gather, the word of God is being spoken, sung, prayed, preached, and embodied. We hear truth that renews our minds, songs that lift our hearts, prayers that align our desires, and testimonies that strengthen our faith. If we want to flourish, we must remain where God feeds us.

4. Faithfulness Through Difficulty

Commitment is proven when things are hard. Anyone can stay when everything is comfortable, but faithfulness is revealed when circumstances are stretching. The church is full of imperfect people, which means friction, misunderstanding, disappointment, and challenge will come—but so will growth. God uses community to form patience, kindness, forgiveness, and love in us. Unless Scripture is compromised or God clearly leads otherwise, we should remain where He has planted us. We should not be quick to uproot ourselves simply because something feels uncomfortable. Growth often happens in the very places where God is stretching our hearts.

From Visiting to Dwelling

There is a difference between visiting and dwelling. A hotel may be beautiful, polished, and comfortable—but it is not home. Home is where you belong, where you invest, where you grow, where you carry responsibility, and where you dwell. Some people treat church like a hotel: they come, receive something, and leave disconnected. But God calls us to treat His house as home—a place where we belong, serve, build relationships, and mature together.

The same is true in our personal relationship with God. Many believers visit the secret place occasionally, but few dwell there. Yet Scripture invites us to *“be still, and know”* God (Psalm 46:10). Jesus commended Mary because she sat at His feet and listened to His word (Luke 10:39–42). There are moments when we must simply stay before the Lord—waiting, listening, worshipping, praying, and refusing to rush away. Prayer is not meant to be a monologue only; it is fellowship. God not only hears us, but also desires to speak to us.

The Call to Respond

Let us not give God only our leftovers. Let us offer Him the best of our time, our attention, and our affection. Jesus said, *“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness”* (Matthew 6:33). If the King of kings invites us into His presence, that invitation should outweigh every lesser claim. We often make time for many other things, yet the presence of God is the one place where our souls are truly renewed.

And what is the result of dwelling in His presence and being planted in His house? Scripture says we will be **blessed** and we will **flourish** - bearing fruit, remaining fresh, and growing strong even in old age. (Psalm 92:14). It means stability, strength, and effectiveness. It means that your life is not wasted. It means that God is forming something enduring in you.

When we commit ourselves to God and to His people, we position ourselves for His blessing.

So the call today is simple and urgent: **Dwell in His presence. Be planted in His house.** This is not the hour for shallow Christianity, drifting devotion, or occasional surrender. This is the hour to go deeper.

If you have been standing at a distance, come near. If you have been uprooted by distraction, disappointment, or weariness, let the Lord plant you again. If you have been treating the things of God casually, let today be a turning point. Choose the presence of God. Choose the people of God. Choose the place where your soul can grow, heal, and flourish. Do not be a passer-by in the things of God. Become a dweller. Become planted. Become rooted. And as you do, God Himself will cause you to flourish.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that blessed are those who dwell in Your house, for they are ever praising You (Psalm 84:4). Thank You that those who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish in the courts of our God (Psalm 92:13). Teach us to dwell in Your presence and to be planted in Your church. Deliver us from casual faith and draw us into deeper commitment. Make us people of prayer, people of worship, people of Your word, and people who love Your church. For those who have grown weary, restore them. For those who have drifted, draw them back. For those who have never truly planted themselves, give them courage to say yes to You today. Let our lives be fruitful, fresh, and full of grace for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

5 Key Takeaways

1. God desires nearness, not occasional visitation; He calls us to dwell in His presence (Psalm 84:4; James 4:8).
2. Spiritual flourishing is connected to spiritual rootedness; those planted in God's house will flourish (Psalm 92:13).
3. Commitment to God's house requires consistency, community, and faithful participation (Hebrews 10:24–25; Ephesians 2:19).
4. Growth often happens through perseverance; God uses community to form love, patience, and maturity in us (1 Corinthians 13:4–7).

5. When we remain in Christ and seek Him first, He strengthens us, bears fruit through us, and causes us to flourish (John 15:5; Matthew 6:33).

Reflection Questions

1. In what ways have I been visiting God's presence rather than truly dwelling in it?
2. What practical step can I take this week to become more firmly planted in God's house and among His people?

Memory Verse

"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God."

Psalm 92:13