

THE PSALMS
of ASCENTS
JOURNEY TO JOY

A vintage bellows camera, likely a Kodak Brownie, is positioned on the left side of the frame. It has a black bellows body and a silver-toned lens assembly. To its right, a stack of old, sepia-toned photographs is visible, showing various scenes and portraits. The entire scene is set against a warm, golden-brown background.

The Art of Observation: Following the Journey of God's Presence Psalm 132

Lesson 9

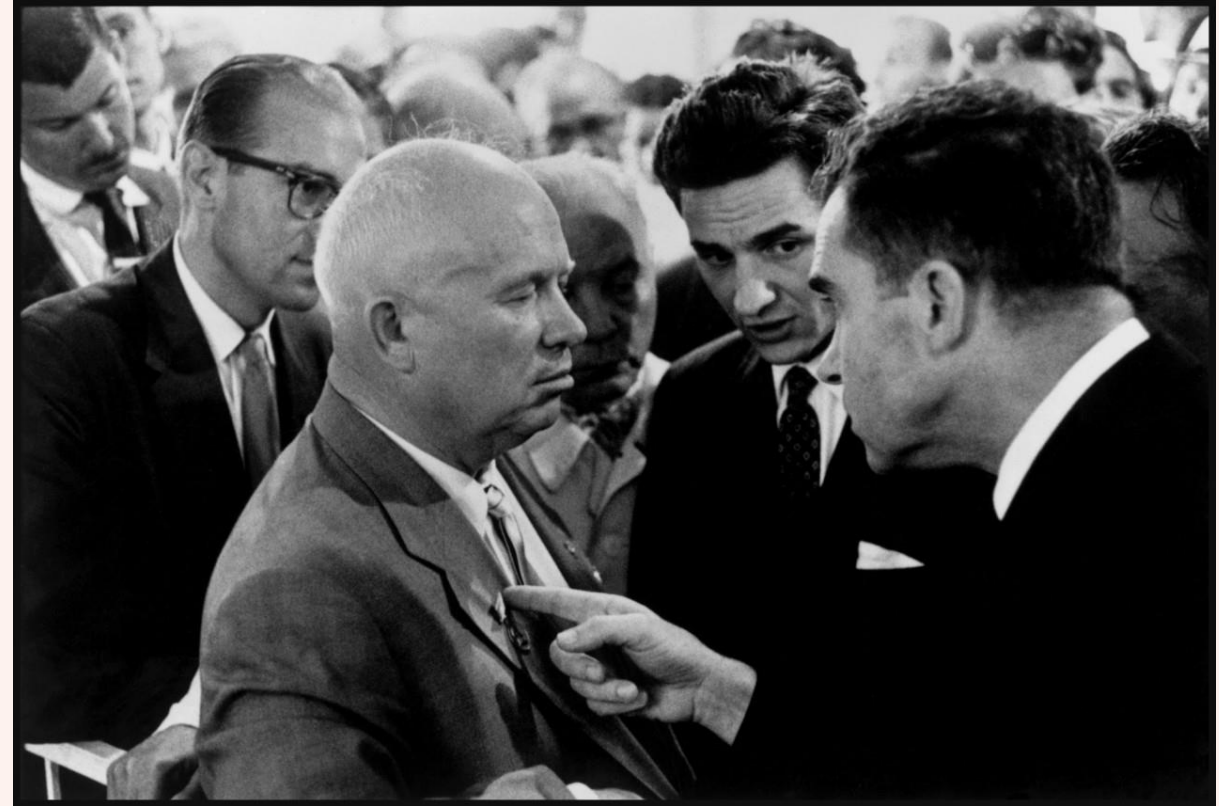
Merrietta Goodyear

April 29, 2026

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



Photo Credit Elliott Erwit



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“Photography is an **ART OF OBSERVATION.**
It has *little* to do
with the things you see
and *everything* to do
with the ***way you see them.***”

Elliott Erwit, Photographer

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The Art of Observation: Following the Journey of God's Presence

I. David, Christ and the Holy Spirit

Psalm 132:1-5

II. Pilgrims, Then and Now

Psalm 132: 6-12

III. Zion and the Renewed Creation

Psalm 132: 13-18





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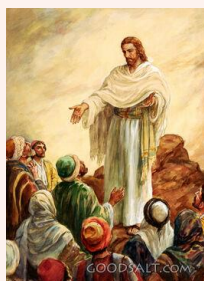
David, Christ, and the Holy Spirit (vv.1-5)



- A House of Stone

“I will not enter my house or go to my bed...until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.” (Psalm 132:1-5)

“Will God indeed dwell on earth? Even the highest heaven cannot contain you!” (1 Kings 8:27)



- God Draws Near

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14)

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19)



- The Breath Within

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” (Acts 1:8)

“You are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.” (Ephesians 1:22)

“You, yourselves are God’s temple.” (1 Corinthians 3:16)





Pause, Zoom In, Look Again.....

***What does your **restlessness** reveal about
what you **desire most**?***

*“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that **I was made for another world.**”*

C.S. Lewis





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Pilgrims, Then and Now (vv. 6-12)



- Backpacks not Settlements

“But our citizenship is in heaven”. Philippians 3:20



- Church without Walls

“Woman, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem”. John 4:21





Pause, Zoom In, Look Again.....

How are you carrying **God's Presence** in your **daily activities** and **relationships**?

Am I just **passing through**?



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“For Christian faith cannot be comprehended by examining an Instamatic flash picture which has caught a pose of beauty or absurdity, ecstasy or terror; (Christian Faith) is a full revelation of a vast creation and a grandly consummated redemption.”

Eugene Peterson, “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction”





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Zion and the New Creation (vv. 13-18)

- Temporary vs. Permanent

“For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: ‘This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.’ Psalm 132:13-14.

- No More Packing

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.” (Revelation 21:3)



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Pause, Zoom In, Look Again.....

What temporary things are you treating as ultimate?

Health, Reputation, Success, Financial Security?



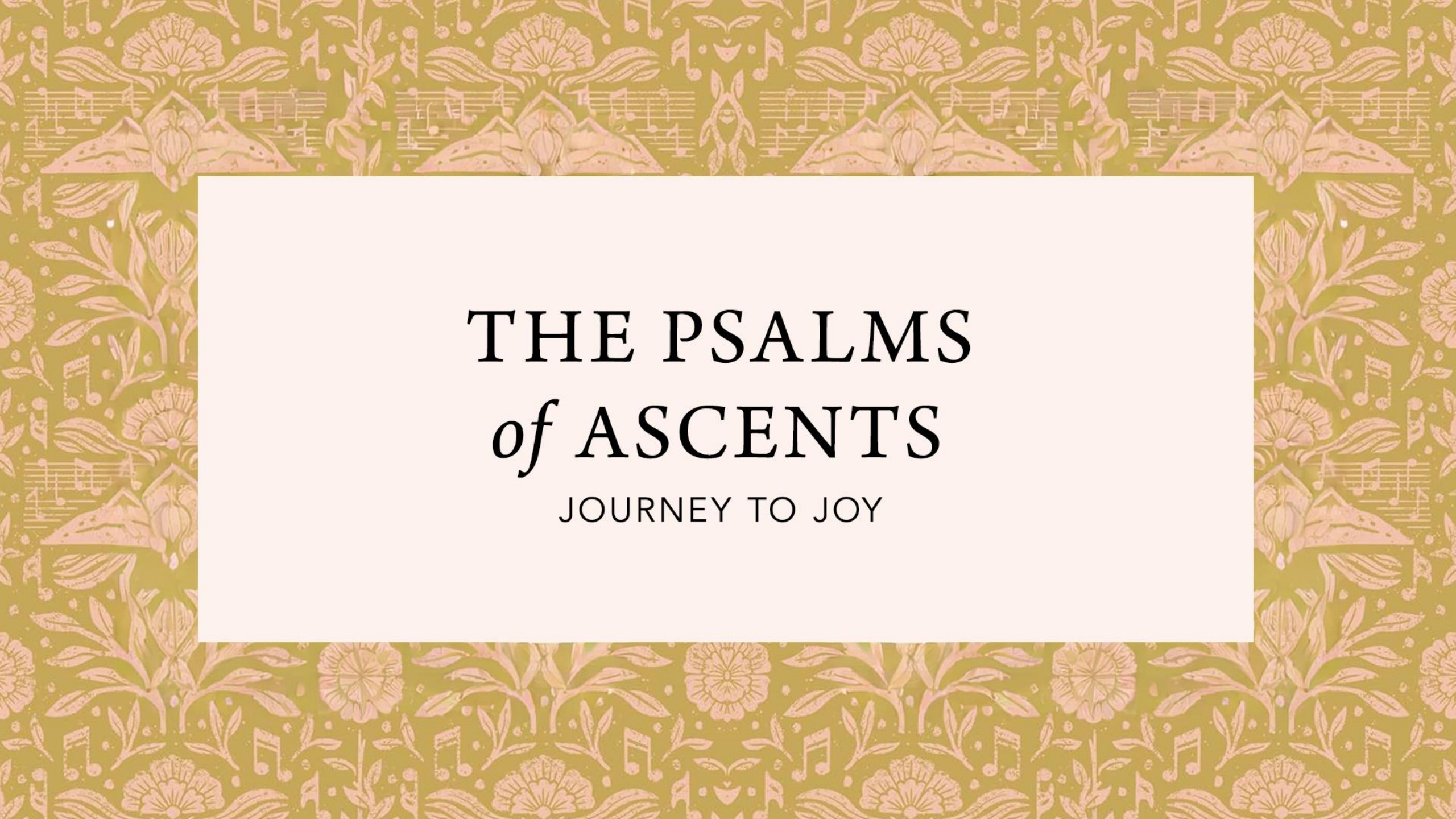
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Art of Observation

- **Pause** – When you feel that “holy restlessness” seek His Presence
- **Zoom In** – On your ordinary moments
- **Look Again** – You aren’t just a person passing through a room

You are the dwelling place of the Living God



The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of stylized flowers and musical notes on a gold background. The pattern is symmetrical and covers the entire area. In the center, there is a white rectangular box containing the title text.

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