

Psalm 4

Psalms 4:1-2 [NIV] *“Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer. How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? Selah”*

Absalom’s revolt, which gave rise to the writing of Psalm 3 could still be in the back of King David’s mind.

For King David, the fact that his own son should rise up against him had turned glory into shame, for it was very humiliating. Also he was surrounded by people, many of whom he could no longer trust.

The Hebrew word translated “*false gods*” is “*kâzâb*” meaning to be deceived into making wrong decisions.

Again King David ends this verse with “*selah*” encouraging us to pause and meditate on what has just been said.

By King David praying to “*my righteous God*” he is appealing to the very character of God and that He is the only God, unlike others who look to many idols for help. To King David, the Creator God was not only “*righteous*” but also merciful.

Such an approach to God takes away any formality or ritual aspect to our prayers, add to that an expectation of its outcome, proving our faith and trust in the Creator God.

Psalms 4:3 [NIV] *“Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD will hear when I call to him.”*

When God calls a person to perform a certain job or to an office, it is also for fellowship with that person. [“*for himself*”]

Understanding this is the ultimate answer to most wounding of aspirations and discouragements in that task or office.

The “*godly*” are those who are faithful and devoted to the Creator God. We also can be confident that God hears our prayers and answers when we call out to Him, because we have trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation, and He has forgiven us our sins.

When we feel that our prayers are just bouncing back off the ceiling, remember that as a believer, God has set us apart and that He loves us.

Ephesians 1:3-10 [NIV] *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will, to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.”*

This is a passage of scripture we should read and meditate on if we feel our prayers are **not** being heard and answered. Not only does it speak to us about the present life but gives us a vision of what our future can be if we remain faithful.

Romans 8:29-31 [NIV] *“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also*

called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

This is what King David was meaning when he refers to those whom God has set apart for Himself.

Psalms 4:4 [NIV] *"In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Selah"*

Always human anger trembles on the brink of sin and before we allow it to burst out we need to give time for thought and consideration of the result if we allow it to be expressed.

Ephesians 4:26-27 [NIV] *"'In your anger do not sin': Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."*

Remember that Satan could get a foothold in our lives if we give in to uncontrolled anger.

The Word of God, the Christian Bible, does **not** say that we should never feel angry, but points out that it is important to handle our anger properly. If vented without pre-thought, anger can hurt others and destroy relationships. If bottled up inside, it can cause us to become bitter and this destroys our relationship with the Holy Spirit who is generating within us the very character of the Creator God.

Ephesians 4:30-31 [NIV] *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."*

Bitterness or uncontrolled anger can cause the Holy Spirit to stop working in our lives, which will hinder our maturing as Christians.

The Holy Spirit is essential for a Christian to mature and not fall away.

The Holy Spirit will –

Guide us into all truth. [**John 16:13**]

Brings to remembrance, when needed, God's Word. [**John 14:26**]

Assists in our prayers. [**Romans 8:26**]

Leads us in our day-to-day life and proves we are children of the Creator God. [**Romans 8:14**]

A powerful force to counter Satan and his demons. [**1 John 4:4**]

Opens up our mind and human spirit to spiritual truth. [**1 Corinthians 2:9-14**]

Flows through us in acts of love to other human beings. [**John 7:38-39**]

These are very important reasons why we need to control our anger and not hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

This verse is all about anger, so the second part is simply telling us to sleep on the situation before we vent any anger.

Note the word "*selah*" ends this verse.

Psalms 4:5 [NIV] *"Offer right sacrifices and trust in the LORD."*

Worship in King David's day included animal sacrifices, that pointed directly towards the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But more important to God than the ceremony was the offerer's attitude of submission and obedience. [1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:6-8]

Hebrews 13:15-16 [NIV] *“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”*

God desires a sacrifice of total obedience and heartfelt praise.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Such an act of worship shows total trust and faith in our Creator God and His purpose for us as human beings.

Psalms 4:6-7 [NIV] *“Many are asking, ‘Who can show us any good?’ Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD. You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound.”*

Worldly people inquiring for good want outward physical good, present good, good food and drink, good trading and homes but what are these that last but for our short life. Compared with the inner joy that King David had because of his close relationship with his Creator God which will continue on for eternity. [John 17:3]

Psalms 4:8 [NIV] *“I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.”*

The meditation on how the Creator God had blessed him, allowed King David to have peace of mind in spite of the traumatic situation he was in.

Only total trust in our Creator God can bring this inner peace of mind and lasting joy.

John 14:26-27 [NIV] *“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

The end result of the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives will give us the peace and joy that **cannot** be found in anything this world can offer.