

Peace From an Awesome God Psalm 4

This Psalm of David is likely penned down in the time of distress when his son Absalom was in the process of taking his father's kingdom from him. His earthy inheritance is at stake. Yet, David knows there is an inheritance much more valuable and much more lasting. That inheritance is his relationship with God. I see rich people from time to time in this life. They seem no more content than anyone else. I have from time to time in my mind imagined what I would do and what I would be like if I were "in their shoes." The rich shed tears just as do the poor. The wealthy have pains just as do the poor. The great song by Dottie Rambo "Tears will Never Stain" has a line that stirs my soul that goes like this- *I have never met one may without sorrow*. Indeed, Job is correct when he penned down at God's instruction Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

There has to be something better than this life. We have all been kicked in the stomach and punched in the mouth at some time by Mr. Life. Mr. Life has at some time picked me up and shook me like a ragdoll. Life had made my heart to fail, my knees to buckle, and my eyes to weep. There must be something better.

What is that *better than life* that we are looking for? We all seek it. Men that turn up the bottle are looking for it. The purpose of the needle in the arm is to find something better. Some seek so hard and so long in vain that they take their life in their state of futility. What is *better than life* and where can it be found?

David has found the answer in Psalm 4. Should he lose his throne, no one can take away his relationship with the Lord. If the kingdom over which God made him the rightful king deserts him and pledges allegiance to his adversary, he still has God. If I leave this place this evening and drive to my home and find only smoldering cinders and heaps of ashes, I still have the Lord. Job lost it all- except for the Lord. A relationship with the Lord cannot be stolen, lost, rust away, shredded, or burned up.

4:1

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.

This verse speaks of David's personal salvation. He is still being sought by his adversaries led by Absalom and his captains. However, in comparison to Psalm 3, he is now calmer and more assured in the Lord. Do you have a personal relationship with the Lord? Everyman will at some time in his lifetime have an *Absalom encounter*. What will you do when your time comes?

Verse 1 has the word *me* twice and the word *my*. Psalm 23:1 *The Lord is **my** shepherd*. Thanks be to God for his divine plan set forth in eternities past that allows fallible human beings have a personal relationship with Jehovah God. His relationship between God and man is made steadfast and eternal by and through the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

4:2

O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah

The meaning of *leasing* in this verse is *lies*. The very best thing that can happen to an enemy of one of God's children is for God to shut their mouths. In this verse, David appeals to God to shut the mouths of his enemies. I am fully convinced the Devil's greatest weapon is his mouth. He utters lie and lie. He slanders time and again. How many homes have been broken and marriages turned to divorce simply by the tongue of the Devil. No one hit the other. No one stole from the other. The Devil got into the tongue of man and spoke vanity and lies. Then, calamity followed. Brother James is correct when he wrote in James 3:6 *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell*. The tongue is hell on earth.

4:3

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

Talk of sanctification makes a lot of folk nervous. It should not for it simply means *set apart*. Sanctification is salvation deep in the soul coming to the outside of the believer. If I went into a bar room and took a seat, I would still be saved. But, I do not go into the bar room because I am a child of God. A lady was considering becoming a Christian. She asked D.L. Moody if she became a Christian, could she still go to the theater which she loved? His answer “was sure you can as long as Jesus says you can for he will be going with you.” You can do whatever and go wherever you wish after you are saved so long as you have His blessing and you do it for the glory of God. If not, don’t do it.

A saved person is eternally set apart by God as we seen in this verse: *But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself.* There has never been nor ever will be a day when God does not claim me, even on my worst day. Yet, when a child of God goes against the commands of God and rebels against the rules of God, it is not God, but the person that has violated the fact of sanctification. A saved person should have an inner desire to please God in all things. This brings us to the fact that many who say they are saved and live like the Devil have never been saved. There is nothing about them that testifies to the fact they are a new creature in Christ Jesus.

4:4

Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah

The word *awesome* is commonly used in our present English language. Several time a day, someone will claim something is *awesome*. How many times have you heard someone describe God as *awesome*? To be born again and secure from hell is a marvelous act by an awesome God. To have a black heart of sin transformed pure and white through the blood of Christ is the act of an awesome God.

We need to recover our *awe*. Has living for God become boring to you? To see the awe of God will put you in a standing position. If you have sat down on your journey for the Lord tired or perhaps disappointed, get alone with God and recover your awe. When David saw the awe in God, he began to speak to himself. How sweet it is when God talks back. The most precious time in the life of most any saint is the time they have spent alone with God. If God gets awesome to you, you will need a place to lie down as David laid down on his bed and observed awesome God in his stillness.

4:5

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

In the Old Testament, two types of offerings seem commonplace. One was the offerings of a repentant sinner. The other was the offering of the righteous saint. David ask in this verse that the sacrifices of righteousness be given. How negligent we are to come to God and shower him with gifts for his goodness toward us. Rarely does anyone speak up and say “God surely has been good to me.”

The burnt offering of the Old Testament was given totally to God. The offering was burned entirely and the smoke of the sacrifice ascended to God. This offering pictured the *passion* of God as it pointed to the offering of his Son on the cross entirely to his father on behalf of humanity.

The meal offering was flour- even, smooth, and pure. Such was the *purity* of the Son of God. He was flawless in every manner. His life displayed nothing but perfection.

The peace offering brought the worshipper and God together in communion. The peace offering pictures the *presence* of Christ. Only through the event of Calvary was man ever reconciled to God. Jesus Christ is the prince of peace.

4:6

There be many that say, Who will show us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

A child of God should be happy. Yet, sometimes our faith is weak. We can get low. When Absalom bears down on us and we hear the cry of war, we want to cry. I do not know how to rejoice every moment of life. David cried. Jesus wept. Such is the nature of life. However, we likely spend too much time down in the valley of mourning.

I sense David has peace in his heart in this chapter. His situation is still grave, but God has given him comfort and assurance. Many in his camp are not fairing so well. Some are down and out. They feel defeated. What they ask for is for God to *shew* them something that will assure them things are going to work out. When our faith bottoms out, it is time for a show. His warriors, the few he has, need to hear from God. David prayed for those in distress. We should pray for one another. David asked God: *LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.*

4:7

Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

Harvest-time in Israel was a special time. The barns were filled with grain. The wine vats were running over. The great feast of tabernacles was truly a festive time. I suppose in the USA, Christmas is our happiness time. The joy David felt in his soul having had reassurance from God and recovered his “awe,” he deemed greater than the greatest of times, the great *feast of tabernacles*.

This is indeed strange. How can David possibly be happy? He is still being pursued by adversaries. He is at present in the wilderness fleeing the mighty forces of Absalom. His army is small and despondent. He may lose his kingdom. Yet, he is glad? This makes to senses to the human intelligence. It is a part of the great mystery of Godliness. God can give a smile in the hardest of times. God can

bring laughter in time of tears. God is awesome and altogether lovely.

4:8

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

The last thing on my mind if saddled with David's current situation would be to sleep. Not only did he look forward to sleep, he rested in peace. Peace coupled with sleep bring a joy unspeakable. Isaiah 26:3 *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*