

PSALM 4 – EVENING PRAYER OF CONFIDENCE AND REFLECTION

Introduction

- 1) **Psalm 4:8** – “I will both lie down in peace, and sleep”
- 2) This psalm of David has often been called the “evening prayer” psalm and linked to Psalm 3, the morning prayer psalm
- 3) The title states that this psalm was written by David to the chief musician
 - a) Chief musician would oversee its use in Jewish worship to God
 - b) Was to be sung with stringed instruments (KJV “Neginoth” – a particular stringed instrument?) (see also 2 Chron. 29:25)
- 4) In this psalm we observe a godly man with his confident reflection as he prepares for sleep

I) Hear Me When I Call (4:1-2)

- A) The godly person has every reason to believe that God hears his prayers (v. 3, Jn. 9:31; 1 Jn. 5:14; Jas. 5:16 – “prayer of a righteous man”; Ps. 34:15 [1 Pet. 3:12])
- B) “O God of my righteousness” – righteousness is credited [imputed] by God based on our faith and obedience (Rom. 4:3; 1 Jn. 3:7)
- C) “You have relieved [enlarged KJV] me...” – Calls *again* for God’s mercy based on past deliverance

II) The Lord Sets Apart the Godly (4:2-3)

- A) Those who oppose God and the righteous love worthlessness and seek falsehood (false gods ESV; any false way)
 - 1) Wisdom and way of this world is vain, empty, and deceitful (Col. 2:8; Eph. 5:6)
- B) “But **know** that the Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly” – God makes a distinction between the ungodly and godly for His fellowship (see Ex. 9:4; 2 Tim. 2:19)

III) Meditating on Your Bed (4:4-5)

- A) Much thinking and consideration can be done in the quietness before sleep
 - 1) “Stand in awe” (KJV, ASV); “Tremble” (NIV, NASV); “Be angry” (NKJV, ESV, LXX, Eph. 4:26)
 - 2) Meditate, consult, commune with your heart – consider your way and avoid sin
- B) Need to consider our relationship with God before we sleep – offer sacrifice of righteousness and put trust in God (Psa. 51:17)

IV) Many are Without Hope, But I will Sleep in Peace (4:6-8)

- A) Ungodly living will cause many to wonder if they will see any good in life – no rest or consolation (Prov. 3:13, 24) – need the light of His countenance (2 Cor. 4:6)
- B) The godly have true spiritual gladness in their heart greater than those who only find gladness in earthly things
- C) The righteous find precious calm, peace, security in God’s safe haven of rest (Psa. 3:5)

Conclusion

This **evening prayer** of confidence and reflection is based on our trust in God. He is our constant source of deliverance and salvation today and every day. Others may act against God and us, but because of God sustaining us by faith, we are able to rest in peace and to awaken and rejoice in Him! Have you accessed His grace by faith?