

Psalm 4 Devotions

☐ Monday - The Triune God of My Righteousness. Psalm 4:1

Here David calls the Lord the “God of my righteousness.” Though this title is used only here in Psalm 4:1, the concept that God is the source of both the positional and practical righteousness of the believer is taught throughout Scripture: [1] God the Father imputes the perfect righteousness of God the Son to the believer’s account on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ (cf. Rom. 4:5; Phil. 3:9), thus making the Christian *positionally* righteous in his standing before Him (Rom. 5:1); [2] God the Father also sends forth God the Holy Spirit to produce inward righteousness in the believer which is reflected his daily *practice* (2 Thess. 2:13). So then here, as in all of God’s works, we see the whole Trinity at work, so we may say that the Lord is the Triune God of my righteousness. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Titus 3:5

☐ Tuesday - Pleading Past Mercies. Psalm 4:1

See how the man after God’s own heart prays (Acts 13:22), “Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; be gracious to me and hear my prayer” (Psa. 4:1). The psalms reveal so much about David’s habit of prayer, and here we see his practice of pleading past mercies as a ground for present favor. O Lord, “You have relieved me in my distress” (past tense), now “be gracious to me and hear my prayer” (present tense). Do your present struggles seem to much to bear? Look behind you, Christian, and there you will see an unbroken string of His faithful works toward you. He has helped you before and He will help you again. God needs no reminder of His faithful works in the past, but we do. And it is this habit of remembering yesterday’s mercies, that helps embolden weak faith to ask for help for today. Psalm 143:5; Lamentations 3:22-23

☐ Wednesday - Set Apart For God. Psalm 4:3

Scripture here proclaims that “the Lord has set apart the godly man for Himself” (Psa. 4:3). That’s talking about you, Christian. The Lord is calling out to you today: “Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine” (Lev. 20:26). Christian, you walk by a higher standard (Eph. 4:1, 17-18), because you have been called with a “holy calling” (2 Tim. 1:9). Never forget who you are in Christ: a “man of God” (1 Tim. 6:11, 2 Tim. 2:16-17), God’s man [or woman] in your home, school and workplace. Read Romans 14:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

☐ Thursday - Christian Meditation. Psalm 4:4,8

David had discovered the secret to a good night’s sleep, especially when one’s heart is weighed down with a load of cares: “Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still” (Psa. 4:4). But unlike eastern mysticism, the key to Christian meditation is not emptying one’s mind of all thoughts, but rather filling it with the Word of God. The result of such meditation is given in verse eight: “In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety” (Psa. 4:8, cf. Psa. 3:5). Read Isaiah 26:3

☐ Friday - You Have Put Gladness in My Heart. Psalm 4:7

David declares, “You [Lord] have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and new wine abound” (Psa. 4:7). True joy is a fruit of the Spirit, not a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:16-23). Worldly enjoyments may put a smile on the Christian’s face, but only the Spirit of God can put gladness into his heart. The joy of the Lord is your strength, Christian (Neh. 8:10): [1] It is strength to your body (Prov. 17:22); [2] it is your strength during trying times (Psalm 42:5); and [3] it is the strength of your Christian testimony (Acts 5:41). But what is the world think if it sees God’s own people overwhelmed with anxiety, but that our God must be a mean taskmaster? Christian, pray today that your countenance would match your words about the goodness of your God, lest our gospel message fall on deaf ears. Read Philipians 4:4