

Prayer Service - Psalm Reading & Prayers

Psalm 4 — Security During Difficulty

Verse 1 — A Prayer to the God of Our Righteousness

O God of our righteousness, we come before You knowing that our righteousness comes from You alone. We confess that we cannot make ourselves acceptable before You, but thank You for the righteousness we have through Jesus Christ. When we are distressed and feel restricted by our circumstances, remind us of the times You have answered our prayers. Help us remember Your faithfulness when our difficulties cause us to forget Your goodness. Teach us to look back with gratitude at what You have done and forward with confidence in what You will do. Thank You that You hear us when we call. Have mercy upon us, strengthen our faith, and help us trust You in every difficulty. O God of our righteousness, hear us and answer our prayer. **Amen.**

Verses 2–3 — A Prayer to Be Set Apart for God

Lord, protect our hearts from loving the vanity, approval, and empty promises of this world. Forgive us when we become more concerned with how we appear before men than with who we are before You. Keep us from chasing the things that cannot satisfy and from placing our confidence in the things of this world. Thank You for setting apart those who belong to You and calling us to live differently. Continue Your sanctifying work in our hearts and make us increasingly holy. Help our lives demonstrate that we belong to You. Remind us that our relationship with You rests upon Your grace and not our performance. And because You have set us apart for Yourself, give us confidence that You hear when we call. **Amen.**

Verses 4-5 — A Prayer for a Quiet and Surrendered Heart

Lord, when we are angry, hurt, disappointed, or frustrated, help us not to sin. Teach us to bring our anger and burdens to You instead of allowing them to control our words, actions, and hearts. Help us to examine our hearts honestly and surrender anything that is displeasing to You. When we are alone with our thoughts, teach us to be still and listen for Your voice through Your Word. Quiet our minds when our thoughts are racing and quiet our hearts when our circumstances become overwhelming. Forgive us for doing all the talking and failing to stop and listen to You. Teach us to respond to difficulty with worship, praise, thanksgiving, and obedience. When we cannot understand what You are doing, help us simply to trust You and rest in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Verses 6–7 — A Prayer for the Light and Gladness of God

Father, when the world asks, “Who will shew us any good?” remind us that our greatest good is found in You. Help us seek Your presence rather than the wealth, success, comfort, and pleasures this world promises. Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us and let Your holiness guide and cleanse our hearts. When darkness surrounds us, remind us that You are light and that there is no darkness in You. When our circumstances change, keep our joy from changing with them. Give us gladness that comes from Your grace and confidence that comes from Your faithfulness. Help us treasure Your presence more than Your blessings. May we know the joy of saying with David that You have put gladness in our hearts. **Amen.**

Verse 8 — A Prayer for Peace, Safety, and Rest

Our Father, remind us that our security is not found in the absence of difficulty, but in Your presence through every difficulty. Because You are trustworthy, help us to lie down in peace and rest in Your care. When our minds are filled with worry, give us peace; when our hearts are troubled, give us peace. When tomorrow is uncertain, remind us that tomorrow has never been outside of Your control. Teach us to trust You with our families, our church, our future, our burdens, and our unanswered questions. Keep fear from robbing us of the rest You desire to give us. Help us remember that You are our refuge, our righteousness, our peace, and our security. We will lie down and sleep in peace because You, Lord, make us dwell in safety. We trust You, we rest in You, and we belong to You. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**