

A pass through The Psalms: **Week 4: Psalm 4**

4:1 -David expresses three strong emotions during this opening prayer:

- **His Passion** is evident in his _____
- **His Boldness** is evident in his _____
 - *Answer Me! Hear my prayer! Be gracious to me!*
- **His Confidence** is evident in his _____
 - God who declares me innocent...
 - You have given me relief when...

-David passionately, boldly & confidently..._____ that God answer his prayers.

-David defends his boldness by _____ God of his good standing.

-David urges God to act in the _____ because of what God has done in the _____.

David urges God to act on his behalf now and rescue him from his present physical enemies because → God has already rescued him from → his past spiritual enemies.

-David is asking God to _____ to what he has already done/promised to do in David's life.

In Exodus 32:9-14 Moses does the same thing. God is so angered that the people of Israel have made the golden calf and threatens to destroy them. Moses almost 'defiantly' challenges God, that God has promised to deliver these people and urges God to act on behalf of his promises.

Both Moses and David risked speaking to God irreverently...but their boldness was an external display of their extreme faith in what God had said previously. And their demanding of God to act on behalf of his promises, displayed to God that they truly believed his words.

-God is seeking people who are willing to put themselves at _____ ...while displaying that they believe what God has said is _____.

4:2 -David is under great scrutiny. Many members of his **own family**, his **own army** and **own people** have turned against him!

-But he calls their words '**vain**' and '**groundless**'... [Hebrew: empty, worthless, vain]

-He is grounded in **the** _____ **of God**, who counts him innocent!

-David does struggle with the **length of time (or leash)** that God is allowing his enemies.

4:3-5 -David _____ the wicked & _____ his confidence in God via a self-peptalk!

"God has set apart the righteous for himself, and he considers me right before him...and he will hear me when I call...so evildoers how long will you fight the inevitable." And "It's ok to be angry when the wicked flourish...but don't allow it to lead you into sin. Instead continue to trust God and come to him correctly [faith & sacrifice]."

Personal Notes:

4:6 -The world is _____ for pleasure, joy, happiness...satisfaction.

-Mankind is on a life-long journey to find _____ happiness.

“All that we call human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” CS Lewis

-David [*and his son Solomon*] is on the same quest...and his discovery is that true happiness can only be found when God turns his face towards us.

4:7 -David declares that he has experienced more joy in the Lord than any amount of joy that the world has to offer.

“...in your presence is fullness of joy, and at your right hand are pleasures forevermore...” Psalm 16:11

“The fight of faith in the Christian life a fight for delight. It’s a fight to believe God’s promises of happiness over the false promises of happiness we hear from the world, our fallen flesh, and the devil. And yes, it often involves denying ourselves pleasure, but only denying ourselves a lesser, viler pleasure in order to have a much higher pleasure.” John Piper

4:8 -David not only finds joy & satisfaction in the Lord but also the safety & security that his soul is longing for.

Personal Notes:

Follow-up Questions:

What are the major ways that you have seen the world seek joy & happiness?

Have you ever experienced frustration at the world and their apparent ‘success in evil’?

Have you ever had your expectations shattered when looking for joy somewhere other than God?

In what ways have you experienced deeper joy & satisfaction in the Lord?

Have you ever had to give yourself a pep-talk like David, to encourage yourself to fight the good fight?