

Psalms 4:4-8 ~ Peace and Safety in God Alone~

“Be angry, and do not sin.”

PRAYER PROMPT:

God, in what ways am I angry tonight? Am I angry at sin (including my own), or angry at people? Do I stand in awe (tremble) because of Your greatness, or because of fear of something else?

“Be angry” in Hebrew can be translated to stand in awe, or to tremble. When we contemplate the fact that we are set apart to God in a world that is aiming at lies and emptiness, this should cause us to tremble. We are surrounded by evil on every side, including the inclinations of our flesh to succumb to the tactics of the enemy. We should walk - not flippantly - but soberly, hating what God hates and loving what

God loves. In every revival in history, trembling in reverential fear of God has accompanied the move of the Holy Spirit.

“Ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.” Selah

PRAYER PROMPT:

Lord, what is it that typically fills my mind at night? In what ways do You want to replace my tumult with the peace of Your Spirit?

Even though trembling and the reverential fear that comes from hating what God hates accompanies God’s work, it does not end there. God moves us into a quiet resting, trusting the finished work of Christ and that He reigns sovereign over all things. This sovereignty includes His ongoing work of dealing with the sin that is within us, and making us more like Himself.

*“Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.”*

PRAYER PROMPT:

Father, have I been attempting to, like Cain, offer You the fruit of my own efforts versus dependence on You? What You have asked of me, You will empower me to do as I seek You. What are You asking of me now?

As He does this ongoing work of shifting our focus from our own experience to His sovereign control over all things - the one who has the right to reign as the Lamb of God - we should respond with offering up the only acceptable sacrifice, which is praise for the righteous offering of Jesus Christ!

“There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?”

PRAYER PROMPT:

Lord, if I look to myself, the world, or anything other than You, I will rightly say this! In what ways does this sentiment in me reveal an alternate source of trust?

Everybody's looking for good somewhere, from somebody or some new thing. Many people are disillusioned because they've tried everything and nothing's worked. Some are overly optimistic about the goodness of humans. Yet the Psalmist is going to answer this pervasive question in the next line.

"Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"

Thank you, Lord, that this has happened and is mine in Christ! In what ways am I viewing Your countenance otherwise (angry

or condemning of me, reluctant to bless, distantly loving, etc.)?

The truth is goodness is only found in one place and One Person: God alone. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shone out of the light of the gospel, to illumine our hearts with the face of Jesus. His countenance being lifted upon us in Jesus is everything to us.

(2 Cor 4:6)

“You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.”

God, You have promised that in Your Presence is fulness of joy (Ps. 16:11)! In what ways am I relying on other sources for joy (“success”, affirmations of people, escape from circumstances or situations,

TV, food, vacations, my own attempts at righteousness)?

God's countenance means everything to us. Our hearts light up with joy because of the favor we have in Jesus Christ. This joy is not like the world gives...it cannot be taken away. (Jn 16:33)

"In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."

God, in what situations is this not true for me and why (bad neighborhood, unstable world, poor locks, lacking human defense, etc)?

In this age where the spirit of antichrist is rampant, we should not depend on the world's gimmicks for peace and safety. It is also very tempting to find our peace in

what we can buy or sell. The cost of being connected to this world's system is often the detriment of our soul. We should know for certainty that peace and safety come only from God.