**June 21, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Greater Refuge Memorial Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

596 West Church Street, Orlando, FL 32805 ~ Phone 407.872.1984

Web site [www.RefugeOrlando.com](http://www.RefugeOrlando.com/)

***Pastor M.R. McCoy, Jr., Lead Servant***

***Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Pastor Emeritus and Diocesan***

**HAVE MERCY UPON ME, AND HEAR MY PRAYER**

**Psalms 4:1-8**

***Psalms 4:1" {To the chief Musician on Neginoth, A Psalm of David.} Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me [when I was] in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer."***

David began by emphasizing his spiritual dependency on God, employing the designation God of my righteousness (not, as in the NIV, “my righteous God”), which is meant to indicate that (1) God (as opposed to man) is the only true source of righteousness (cf. Psalm 71:16; Ecclesiastical 7:20; Jeremiah 23:6; Romans 3:10), and (2) as true righteousness is found only in God, He “reckons” (i.e., “legally extends”) it to whomsoever He chooses (whether David or anyone else) as a gift (cf. Genesis 15:6; Romans 3:22; 4:3-6, 24). David’s request that God hear him refers not to the act of listening (for God knows what people need even before they ask; Matthew 6:8), but rather the act of providing what is most needed by the petitioner. Answer me when I call, God. David expresses his dependency on the Lord because he is the source of righteousness, the one who vindicated him. Just as God had freed him from his past suffering and affliction, David knew that God would meet him in the midst of his current trials. He appeals to God to be gracious to him, hear his prayer, and provide what he needs to face his circumstances. The chief musician was the director of music in the sanctuary. We will find that David had set one person over the music in the sanctuary in the following verses.

***I Chronicles 6:31-32***

***31 "And these [are they] whom David set over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after that the ark had rest."***

***32 "And they ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation with singing, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem: and [then] they waited on their office according to their order."***

It appears to me that Neginoth was such a leader. The word Neginoth means instrumental music, or stringed instrument. It can be extended to mean a poem set to music. Now we know why he had such an unusual name. We know that the desire of the believer in Christ is to be a sweet sound in His ear. Singing and soft music soothes the troubled soul. We know, also, that Saul had called for David to sing and play for him. This is the very way David had gotten into the house of Saul. The word that was translated chief musician, is thought by some to mean [unto the end}, which would indicate this was actually addressed to Christ. It really does not matter to whom it is addressed. The prayer is to God. David is definitely calling to God, when he says, hear me when I call. David is saying, you helped me before, help me now. We have all prayed along these lines at one time or another. Wonder why we think that God will not hear our prayers? David is not alone in crying for mercy either. Mercy is unmerited favor. Just like David, we may not deserve God's help, but He will help us anyhow, when we pray to Him. Notice, in this also, that David says his righteousness is from God. Remember, we were not righteous until Jesus took our sin on His body and clothed us instead with His righteousness. Our righteousness was as filthy rags, but now our righteousness is in Jesus. We need to see, also, that David thanked Him for answering earlier prayers, while he is asking for this prayer to be answered. God wants to hear us say that He was the One who brought the last victory to us. Praise God every chance you get. He likes to hear it. Do we truly believe that God answers prayer? Then pray and believe, and you shall have what you ask.

***Psalms 4:2 "O ye sons of men, how long [will ye turn] my glory into shame? [how long] will ye love vanity, [and] seek after leasing? Selah."***

David warns “the sons of a man” (the literal rendering of CSB’s exalted ones) to take God seriously; this is what Scripture calls “fearing God.” They should not love what is worthless or pursue a lie. Rather, they should tremble before God and not allow their anger to cause them to sin against God’s anointed king. The problem above is they are sons of men. These are men who have not been grafted into the family of God and become sons of God. This would be worldly men who have their thoughts stayed upon things of this world. This really is the condition of our world today. 2 Timothy chapter 3 describes these people exactly. They have no time for God. Let us see who are the sons of God? Let's look at two Scriptures that show us that all believers in Christ are sons of God.

***Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."***

***Galatians 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."***

Until a person, male or female, receives Jesus Christ as their Saviour and becomes a son of God, they will do all sorts of things that shame God. Leasing means falsehood in this Scripture. This could mean a lot of things. They are a liar, or perhaps, they are seeking false gods. It could even be both. Loving vanity just means loving this world and all things in it. Selah is certainly used as a sigh of sorrow here.

***Psalms 4:3 "But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him."***

The following two Scriptures say exactly what I want to say about this Scripture above.

***I Peter 2:9 "But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"***

***Revelation 17:14 "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him [are] called, and chosen, and faithful."***

How wonderful to be the called of God, and to have answered that call. We believers in Christ have been given the authority to pray to the Father in Jesus' name. God hears and answers our prayers when we ask in Jesus' name.

***John 14:13 "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."***

***Psalms 4:4 "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah."***

To stand in awe, is to reverence God. The fear, or reverence, of God is the beginning of wisdom. If we truly fear God, we will not sin, because we do not want to displease Him. Commune with your own heart means to think in your heart on God. Sometimes, in our bed, is the only quiet time that we can think in our heart about God. Let me give a Scripture that covers {be still}.

***Psalms 46:10 "Be still, and know that I [am] God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."***

***Psalms 4:5 "Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD."***

Sacrifices of righteousness, to me, means making a special effort not to sin, because righteousness pleases God. Our true righteousness, as we discussed earlier, is not being good enough, but receiving our righteousness from Jesus Christ. He took our sin and we received His righteousness. Trust is beyond faith. It is resting in Jesus, knowing that He saved you. Trust is knowing in your heart that all is well. We cannot trust in man. Our trust must be in the LORD Jesus Christ. Trust the LORD with all your heart, and He will reward you.

***Psalms 4:6 "[There be] many that say, Who will shew us [any] good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us."***

David here directed his address back to the Lord, expressing the desire on behalf of himself and the many, the “godly” of v. 3. Verse 6 is literally, “Oh that someone would provide us what is good.” There are two separate thoughts in the verse above. The first part is speaking of those who have not received the LORD as their Saviour. They are living in darkness. They believe in only the things that they can see with their physical eyes. The second half of the statement above, is saying, Open my eyes that I might see Thee more clearly. Let your Light shine upon us. Jesus is the Light of the world. Those who have received Jesus as Saviour, walk in His Light.

***John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."***

Notice the contrast in the next Scripture.

***John 11:10 "But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him." If we belong to Jesus, we must walk in His Light.***

***John 12:35 "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth."***

***I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."***

All of these Scriptures mean the same thing. They are all showing the difference in a man who is not saved, that must see everything with his physical eyes, before he will believe; and the saved man who believes, because he sees through the eyes of the spirit. God alone is the source of blessing. David thus encourages the discouraged around him, those who ask, Who can show us anything good? He reminds them that the Lord can revive the countenance. He would illuminate them and show them favor in spite of their adversity.

***Psalms 4:7 "Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time [that] their corn and their wine increased."***

David celebrates the joy that God had placed in his heart more joy than was possible even during the great harvest festival. We see the very same separation in this verse as in the previous verse. The gladness of the unsaved is over physical benefits here on the earth. The gladness of the saved is from within. There may be calamities all around the saved person, and yet they have the joy of the LORD within. There is no greater blessing than having Jesus in our heart. The Bible says we are not like those who have no hope {unsaved}. We have hope of the resurrection to eternal life in heaven with Jesus. Life would be miserable, if the only time we could rejoice was when a material blessing came along. Most of the time, we would be down and out. Praise God! I have my joy within, and it does not depend on earthly things.

***Psalms 4:8 "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety."***

In the midst of David’s difficulty, God had given him sleep, peace, and safety. This is a reminder that in times of trial, God often gives proof of his presence. Thus, the follower of God can experience “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” and that “will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). This psalm reminds us that God provides confidence and encouragement in our suffering. We, in turn, are able to share that confidence and encouragement with others.” David’s confidence that God, and God alone, will fully provide all that is necessary for his good enabled him to lie down and sleep even in the midst of his distress. This may well allude to David’s experience when God intervened to save his life by putting Saul and his army into a sound sleep (1 Samuel 26:12). In two other OT passages, God brought a deep sleep onto someone in connection with sovereignly meeting a great need (cf. Genesis 2:21; 15:12).” One of the most popular memorized prayers of children begins, Now I lay me down to sleep. Many adults, in our society lay down to sleep, but the cares of this world will not let them sleep. If a person has perfect peace, sleep should come easily. Fear seems to be a way of life today. So many bad crimes occur in the night. We cannot protect ourselves 24 hours a day. We cannot trust society, but we can trust God to watch over us and keep us safe.

***Psalms 91:5 "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; [nor] for the arrow [that] flieth by day;"***

When you lie down to sleep, pray that God will watch over you as a Shepherd watches over His sheep. You know, we are His sheep. There is a peace that passes understanding. Pray that God will give you that peace, that you might sleep.

***Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."***

Nothing we do keeps us dwelling in safety, only God makes us dwell safely.

***Romans 15:33 "Now the God of peace [be] with you all. Amen."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who was chapter 4 of Psalms addressed to?
2. Who penned Psalm chapter 4?
3. What was the role of the chief musician?
4. Who set the chief musician in the sanctuary?
5. What does Neginoth mean?
6. What 2 things soothes the troubled soul?
7. Why was David called to live in the house of Saul?
8. What is mercy?
9. Where did David's righteousness come from?
10. What is the real problem in verse 2?
11. What 2 Scriptures show Christians as sons of God?
12. Who are the chosen of God?
13. What goes beyond faith?
14. What is trust?
15. Who is the Light of the world?
16. Who walk in the Light of Jesus?
17. What cleanses the Christian from all sin?
18. What is the only thing that makes the unbeliever glad?
19. Why does the Christian's joy not depend on earthly things?
20. Why are so many people afraid at night?