

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

THOU HAST PUT GLADNESS IN MY HEART PSALMS 4

Text: Psalms 4:7

Psalm 4:7

⁷ ***Thou hast put gladness in my heart***, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

Introduction:

David was running from Absalom when he penned down the words of this psalm. In spite of the terrible situation, David realized that God had placed gladness in his heart.

The word “gladness” means joy or elation.

Literally, David’s heart was smiling even though it was broken and he faced a great challenge.

Remember:

- Joy can be experienced in spite of a negative or discouraging situation.

- Gladness is not the result of external prosperity, but rather internal peace.
- It was put there by God Himself on purpose. True joy is placed in our hearts by the Lord.

Notice:

1. DAVID EXPERIENCED PROSPERITY IN HIS HEART (VS. 1-2)

Psalm 4:1-2

¹ 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. 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.

Note:

A. His Foes Engaged Him (vs. 2)

David's Enemies constantly looked for ways to ridicule him and bring him down.

They sought "after leasing" or literally told lies on David to destroy his life.

Remember our enemy does the same thing. Satan engages the believer to bring havoc and chaos.

Note not only did his foes engage him but:

B. His Father Enlarged Him

In spite of the continual attacks of the enemy, David discovered that God had “enlarged him” even when distressed.

The word “enlarged” means to tear down the boundaries and give plenty of room. It implies prosperity and blessing.

The more the enemy battled David the more the Lord blessed David.

Notice not only did David Experience Prosperity in His Heart” but also:

2. DAVID EXPERIENCED PURITY IN HIS HEART (VS. 3-5)

Psalm 4:3-5

³ But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him. ⁴ Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. ⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

Note:

A. David Was Separated – “The Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself”

The Lord had a purpose for David – he was the chosen king, and nothing the enemy did could hinder the plan of God.

Notice the fact that the Lord sets apart the godly; not just anyone is going to be favored by the Lord.

Not only was David Separated but also:

B. He Was Still – “Stand in awe”

This word literally means to be still, quivering with reverence.

It is also interesting to note that this word “awe” is only found three times in the Bible and all three times it is found in this book.

Note:

Psalm 4:4

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

Psalm 33:8

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world **stand in awe of him.**

Psalm 119:161

¹⁶¹ Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart **standeth in awe of thy word.**

- Stand in “awe” and sin not
- Stand in “awe” of Him
- Stand in “awe” of thy Word

All of these are important.

In our text this evening David quieted himself before the Lord, and understood the importance of living a pure and holy life.

Certainly this denotes a person consecration to God.

Not only was David “separated” and “still” but also:

C. He Was Sacrificing (vs. 5)

Psalm 4:5

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

David found a place of worship in his trouble,

Those who will have gladness in their hearts will discover that God is worthy to be praised even in the most difficult moments of life.

Notice not only did David Experience Prosperity and Purity in His Heart” but note lastly:

3. DAVID EXPERIENCED PEACE IN HIS HEART (VS. 6-8)

Psalm 4:6-8

⁶ There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

⁷ Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. ⁸ I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Note:

A. This Was a Peace Greater Than Their Possessions – *Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.*”

What a wonderful time when harvest comes, yet for David he was more joyful in his distress than his enemies were in their abundance.

The child of God experiences more joy in his affliction than the lost sinner does in his prosperity.

Note not only that this peace was greater than their possessions but also:

B. This Peace Was Based on His Protection (vs. 8)

Psalm 4:8

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

In Psalm 3 David discovered the blessing of waking up with the Lord’s peace and in this psalm David discovers the joy of falling asleep with the Lord’s protection.

Psalm 3:5

⁵ I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.

Close:

Despite being on the run, being constantly attacked and viciously assaulted, David had gladness in his heart from the Lord, and the Lord can do the same for each of us this evening.