



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Psalm 4

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible  
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 4.

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### Topics.

- Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.
- Be angry, and do not sin.
- Offer right sacrifices.
- After offering right sacrifices put your trust in the LORD.
- In peace I will sleep for you O LORD make me dwell in safety.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they consist of five books covering the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

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### To the Choirmaster: with Stringed Instruments A Psalm of David.

**Psalm 4:1-8:** Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! <sup>2</sup>O men, how long shall my honour be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah* <sup>3</sup>But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. <sup>4</sup>Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah* <sup>5</sup>Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. <sup>6</sup>There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!" <sup>7</sup>You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. <sup>8</sup>In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

**Be gracious to me and hear my prayer:** (v1) David like Paul understands that it is only by God's grace that he is made right before God. Paul in the following verses shines a brilliant spotlight on the importance of trusting in God's grace:

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life. By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

**Be angry, and do not sin:** (v4) some think Jesus was a sinner, because he made a whip and drove out of the temple of God sheep and oxen and then poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables (John 2:15). But there is righteous anger and selfish anger. Righteous anger is motivated by the passion to protect others against hurt and what is wrong while selfish anger is motivated by the passion to inflict harm and hurt upon others. Consider the following: in 2011 on a national T.V. News program a lady who was well into her retirement years was filmed racing across the street with no fear for her own life armed only with a handbag to stop five men with baseball bats robbing a jewellery store (they all fled).

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This brave and courageous woman had such a strong love for justice and what was right that it overrode any concern for her own life. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the colt and saw priests who should be doing the work of God inflating prices of religious items and animals sold for sacrifices for their own gain and profit and oppressing and taking advantage of the poor and those who were seeking God he felt the same righteous anger as the elderly lady who drove the robbers away.

Now what do you think? Would God call this type of anger sinful or righteous? The words, "Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent," means do not allow the inward passion of anger to outwardly inflict harm upon others physically or verbally. A person may experience the emotion of anger, but it is not sin until they outwardly act on it, David is simply saying when you feel angry, do not act on it, because it will be destructive and therefore sinful lie on your bed, (i.e., walk away until calm returns and the anger dissipates).

**Offer right sacrifices:** (v5) right sacrifices means whatever is offered to God whether it be burnt offerings, grain offering or money etc., unless they are offered from a heart of integrity and honesty and that is devoted to God by faith and love and treats others with decency and respect the offering no matter how good will count for nothing before God.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

**After offering right sacrifices put your trust in the LORD:** (v5) though it is important to offering sacrifices with a right heart attitude it is equally as important not to trust in them for righteousness and salvation, but to trust in God and in His grace.

**In peace I will sleep for you O LORD make me dwell in safety:** (v8) David not only trusted God was in control of his life when things were going well for him, but also trusted Him when he was confused, his enemies surrounded him and when he suffered depression and despair.

**Overflowing joy:** (v7) David says, the LORD has put more joy in his heart than those that abound with grain and wine, this shows that a person can have very little, but if they are in a right relationship with God and trusting in Him they can experience more joy within their mind and heart than the rich, the famous and those who prosper.

**SUMMARY:** David knows God is his righteousness, the one who brings, peace, relief and joy to the human heart and has confidence God hears his prayer. He understands that each individual is accountable for their own actions, attitudes and thoughts and therefore encourages us all to take moments of silence to look into our own hearts and honestly examine them before the LORD and never to act on any emotion that might bring hurt and harm to others.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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