

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PSALMS
LESSON 3
PSALM 3 AND PSALM 4
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 3

TRUST IN GOD AMIDST ADVERSARIES, ADVERSITY, ACCUSATIONS AND SLANDER

Psalm 3, entitled a morning prayer of trust, is the first of 14 psalms that provide historical background for the occasion of the writing of this song. In **Psalm 3**, David records his inspired account of his trust in the Lord while suffering great adversity at the hands of his rebellious son Absalom, the leader of an insurrection against him. **Psalm 3** is the confident prayer of a true believer when enemies are growing in number and strength, but who responded without fear because he trusted in the Lord as his protector and provider.

Psalm 4, an evening prayer of trust in God, is a prayer for help that is dominated by the psalmist's confidence in the Lord's loving care and His provision of peace in the midst of accusations and slanderous lies spun by enemies and antagonists. From **Psalm 4**, we see the righteous rejoice in God's protecting grace that brings peace and security even in the face of distressing attempts to undermine and harass them.

As you read and meditate upon these Psalms may your trust in the Lord give you that peace that passes all comprehension even in times of great adversity and personal attacks.

Read Psalm 3:1-2 and 2 Samuel 15:1-18 (If time, read 2nd Samuel 13-18).

1. What do you learn of Absalom's insurrection from **2 Samuel 15**? How do you think that affected David?
2. In **Psalm 3:1-2**, how did David describe the hardship and abuse hurled at him?

David inserts **Selah** following his opening cry and lament. "**Selah** is a note of observation. Whenever you see it, read the passage that precedes and follows it. There is always something excellent where we are required to rest, pause, meditate, or lift our hearts in grateful song." [The Treasury of David](#), C.H. Spurgeon, p.14

Read Psalm 3:3-8, Romans 8:31

3. Verse 3 starts with "But" which marks a contrast between the expression of distress in verses 1 and 2 and the declaration of confidence that follows. How does David express his confidence in the Lord in **Psalm 3:3**? What does Paul tell us in **Rom. 8:31**?
4. From **Psalm 3:4** what did David do when facing uncertainty and adversaries? How did God respond?
5. What did God provide David in **Psalm 3:5 and 6** as David meditated upon and trusted in God's unchanging promises?

6. In **Psalm 3:7-8**, what was David's request (**v.7**), God's response (**v.7**) and David's expression of praise (**v.8**)?

Read Psalm 4. The evening Prayer of Trust in God

7. In Psalm **4:1**, what does David say about God's faithfulness in answer to past prayer? How does God's past faithfulness provide David with confidence in God's responsiveness to his immediate requests?

In **Psalm 4:2-5**, David reasons with his enemies to turn away from their slanderous lies and untrue accusations railed against him but rather tremble and repent (**vs. 4**) and trust in God (**v.5**). in spite of the pressures and attacks against him, David makes this plea for his antagonists to repent and trust in God.

8. As an element of their attack against David, in **Psalm 4:6(a)** the skeptical antagonists challenge God's goodness and care. How does David respond in **Psalm 4:6(b) and 7**? How does David compare joy and gladness from the Lord to the gladness that comes from material blessings?

"Verse 7 provides confidence for this prayer for divine favor with the remembrance of God's gracious dealings in the past: "You have put joy in my heart more than when their grain and their new wine abound." He was affirming that God had given him greater gladness than that which comes with full granaries and vats." [A Commentary on the Psalms](#), Allen P. Ross, p. 239

9. How does David conclude his evening prayer of trust in God (**vs.8**)?

"The joy that the psalmist had in his heart over knowing how God cared for him in the past and would deliver him from his current crisis enabled him both to lie down quietly at night and sleep in peace." "Trusting in the Lord is the only place of safety in this troubled world; and those who would cause trouble for the godly must know that the Lord is on the side of his beloved." [A Commentary on the Psalms](#), Allen P. Ross, p. 239

10. How has the study and meditation upon **Psalms 3 and 4** helped you face stresses, difficulties, adversities or personal attacks and slanderous lies leveled against you?