

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday of Lent – March 13, 2021

*“But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.”*

– Psalm 4:3 –

Life, as we all know, comes with many challenges and difficult circumstances along the way. During those times, we often long for relief and rescue from what we are experiencing. We may long for greater financial security, health, healing in our relationships, a satisfying job, freedom from fear, pain, grief, addictions, or character flaws. The list of our longings varies as widely as we do.

But as we long for rescue from our trials, we come to believe that only rescue can bring us relief. Psalm 4 points to a relief that transcends any trial we may face in life, even while still experiencing the pain of the trial. Psalm 4 depicts David, in distress, crying out to God for deliverance from his troubles (v. 1). But we see no easy resolution. Even though his troubles may have remained, the psalm ends with David knowing that God is able to fill his heart with joy even when the godless experience great abundance (v. 7). He then lies down knowing he will sleep in peace because he knows his security rests in God alone.

Yes, God alone brings David security, peace, and joy. His trials may persist, but David lives in intimate relationship with God, for which God set him apart (v. 3). He communes with God, knowing he hears his prayers. And, through this continual abiding bond, God sustains David through his trials.

God, in Christ, sets us apart for intimate relationship with Himself too. He invites us to, like David, cry out to him in our distress and trust that he hears our prayers. Our turning to God in dependent trust, no matter what our circumstances, turns our focus from ourselves, our desires, and our present situation, and it trains our focus on the rightful center of our lives. When this happens, the Lord becomes the landscape of our thoughts and images in our mind, and we come to understand who we truly are: his beloved who can peacefully dwell in the safety of the Lord no matter what trials we may be experiencing.