

## Prayer Guide for March 25-30, 2024

Monday (Jordan Byrd), *Psalm 4:1 - Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.*

Pray: Heavenly Father, where are you? It feels like I'm reaching out to you, but there's no clear response. I know you are righteous and always do what is right and good. However, the lack of a clear answer is frustrating. I'm seeking your deliverance, hoping to believe in your care to guide me through tough times. In your mercy, deliver me. Help me hear your response clearly. You have consistently shown your goodness, and if the answer isn't what I want, help me understand your wise reasons. Please look beyond my limited understanding and provide what is best for me. It's by the power of your Spirit and through your Son, Jesus, that I pray to you. Amen.

Reflect: What can you give thanks to God for today? Do I have room in your relationship with God for myself to be wrong in what I ask of God in prayer? How might that humble posture in prayer help me understand God's "no" or the absence of action with my prayer as confirmation that He does in fact hear me, but has something better or better timing in mind for me?

Tuesday (Sean Cronin), *Psalm 4:2 - How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?*

Pray: Gracious God, thank you for being gracious and patient with us. I wish it weren't true, but my heart is an idol factory. I

get my priorities mixed up on a regular basis. My loves are all out of order. I know I should love and trust you more than anything else, but many days I end up putting my trust in another human being or my money before putting it in you. Be my source of hope today, God. Be the love of my life. I thank you for the good things you've provided for me, like a job, a family, friends, my health, but God, I need you more than I need those things. You are the only one who can satisfy my soul. You are the only firm foundation upon which I can build my life. Help me to seek you first in all I do. Be my source of hope.

Reflect: What can you give thanks to God for today? What do you constantly worry about? What do you fear losing, so much so that you find yourself worrying about losing it on a regular basis? Why do you worry about losing it? Is it because it's an idol for you, something you're putting your hope and trust in instead of God?

Wednesday (Jim Twardowski), *Psalm 4:3 - Know that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.*

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, I turn to You for grace and comfort. Yes, I know that there are those who hurt me and I ask that You give me strength to forgive and love them as You love them. It is not always easy, and I can often take things the wrong way, so help me have a clear understanding of Your will and way. It is only through Your eyes that I will be able to see and through Your ears that I will be able to hear. Help me to provide grace as You have provided grace to me. I pray this in Your Son's holy name. Amen

Reflect: What can you give thanks to God for today? Is there someone in your life today that needs your grace? Give as you have been given!

Thursday (Casey Cronin), *Psalm 4:4-5 - Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord.*

Pray: Father, help me to get rid of the hurts and wrongs that I've suffered in this life. Let me forgive and forget as You do towards my sins. Quench my desire for revenge, knowing that You are the just judge. Give me mental peace to ease my racing thoughts, resting in Your goodness. Enable me, through Your Spirit, to be a living sacrifice trusting in Your protection.

Reflect: What can you give thanks to God for today? Society says; "Don't get mad, get even!" But seeking revenge is like drinking poison and hoping your enemy dies from it. How many ulcers have been formed because of pent up anger towards others? The Psalmist instead pleads; Be still, know that God is on His throne and He will judge (see Romans 12: 17-19). You've heard it before: "Let go and let God". You'll sleep better.

Friday (Jordan Byrd), *Psalm 4:6-7 - Many, Lord, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?" Let the light of your face shine on us. Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.*

Pray: Heavenly Father, I am surrounded by people and forces that, at best, ignore you, and at worst, despise you. Their arrogance claims you do not exist and that you are not present

in the goodness or the messiness of life. Father, it's tempting in this materialistic and human-centered world to believe that any sort of prosperity is of my own doing or cleverness. Help me to stand in the truth and believe that all I have, and all I ever will have, comes from you. It's by the power of your Spirit and through your Son, Jesus, that I pray to you. Amen.

**Reflect:** What can you give thanks to God for today? What is one way God has provided for me in the past? What is one way God is providing for me right now? What is one way that God will need to provide for me in the future?

**Saturday** (Mitchell Knight), *Psalm 4:8 - In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.*

**Pray:** Father, it is a struggle to find safety in this world that we live in. It's a world where people are eager to lie, cheat, and steal. Can we truly find rest in such a world? Where are you in the midst of our suffering? You are in Heaven, judging the peoples with equity, and showing your lovingkindness to those who don't deserve it. You are gracious and loving and our mighty fortress of protection. Who will I fear with You keeping watch over my life? You are the only reason my heart finds rest because You are the only one who can give it to me. Thank You for watching my life and guiding me into green pastures. I surrender my life to Your guidance this day, to the good shepherd who lays down His life for us sheep. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Reflect:** What can you give thanks to God for today? Do I trust God to take care of my life's problems?