

Prayer for Illumination

**Risen Jesus, speak to us as we read Your Word. In listening, help us do what is right. Amen**

Psalm 4    *Perfectly Safe*

Answer me when I pray, O God, my defender! When I was in trouble, You helped me. Be kind to me now and hear my prayer.

How long will you people insult me? How long will you love what is worthless and go after what is false?

Remember that the LORD has chosen the righteous for His own, and He hears me when I call to Him. Tremble with respect and stop sinning; think deeply about this, when you lie in silence on your beds. Offer the right sacrifices to the LORD, and put your trust in Him.

There are many who pray: "Give us more blessings, O LORD. Look on us with kindness!"

But the joy that You have given me is more than they will ever have with all their grain and wine.

When I lie down, I go to sleep in peace; You alone, O LORD, keep me perfectly safe.

**Amen**

1 John 3:1-7    *Purify Yourself*

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.

But we know that when Jesus appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Jesus as He is. All who have this hope in Jesus purify themselves, just as Jesus is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that Jesus appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Jesus is no sin. No one who lives in Jesus keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Jesus or known Him.

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as Jesus is righteous.

**Amen**

Acts 3:12-19    *A Big Three Letter Word*

Peter said, "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus. You handed Jesus over to be killed, and you disowned Him before Pilate, though Pilate had decided to let Jesus go.

You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the Author of Life, **BUT** God raised Jesus from the dead. We are witnesses of this ...

Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what He had foretold through all the prophets, saying that His Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that times of refreshing may come from God".

**Amen**