

# Believe the Truth, Reject the Lie - Psalm 4

*Important to Note: Psalm 3 sets the stage; Psalms 4 and 5 continue the trouble, and Psalm 7 recounts what happened with Shimei—all tied into Absalom and the fallout of that situation. (2 Samuel 15–17)*

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## Evaluation of the False

Read through **2 Samuel 15–17**.

- What are a number of lies David is being told?
  - What are a number of lies being said about David that he probably overheard?
  - What are some of the implicit lies that David is probably believing, whether he realizes it or not?
  - How does he respond?
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## Reminder of the True

Examine **Psalms 3–5** (and related passages).

- **What are the truths David is trying to remind himself of?**
  - **How does this play into passages like Romans 11:28–12:8?**  
*(Hint: Believers can be "enemies" in moments of rebellion yet "beloved" through election—leading to lives of awe-filled service.)*
  - **What's the basis for our knowing that God loves us?**  
*(e.g., Romans 5:8—God demonstrates His love in Christ's death while we were still sinners.)*
  - **What's our confidence that none of this is out of God's control?**  
*(e.g., God's sovereignty as shield and sustainer.)*
  - **What's our reaction to situations around us since we can be assured of these things?**  
*(e.g., Be still, trust, offer righteousness, and serve with awe.)*
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## Rehearse the Truth

- He prays (though weeping) (2 Sam. 15:31, against Ahithophel)
  - Accepts his part in all this (2 Sam. 16:10–12: "Perhaps God sent this")
  - Strategizes with spies (2 Sam. 15:32–37)—he's not going to just "lie down and die." If God is against him, God will frustrate his attempts to fix this.
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# Verse-by-Verse: Psalm 3

1. **What have you done for me** (not "what have you done for me lately") (vs. 1) (see 2 Sam. 12:13)
  - You've enlarged me (I'm not straitened)
  - You've given me righteousness (I'm not condemned)
  - You've been merciful (I don't get what I deserve)
  - You hear my prayers (I get access into Your presence)
2. What are the other people like? (vs. 2)
  - They shame me.
  - They love empty things.
  - They go after lies
  - Lie: "I've been abandoned; I receive only wrath from God; I can't be forgiven; I am worthless."
  - Truth: "God still hears my prayers." (Philippians 1:6) "God loves me." (Rom. 5:8)
3. **Selah (vs. 2)**
  - Which voice dominates the mind right now?
4. How does God respond? (vs. 3)
  - Sanctifies (sets apart) those who set Him apart.
  - Listens to those who serve Him.
5. How should we respond? (vs. 4)
  - Be in awe of Him – both His judgment and His kindness.
  - Examine yourself in the quiet moments.
  - Be still.
  - Lie: "God doesn't hear; serving God is pointless; I only receive grief from the Lord."
  - Truth: "God still hears my prayers, as long as I am not ignoring His truth" (Psa. 66:18); "prosperity doesn't mean God's blessing" (Psa. 37:35-38)
6. **Selah (vs. 4)**
7. How then should we live? (vs. 5)
  - Offer appropriate things to God – righteousness to a righteous God.
  - Trust in Him.
8. What else are you going to hear? (vs. 6-8)
  - "Who will be good to us"
  - "Go to another source for your gladness"
  - "You won't have peace with God."
  - Lie: "It's pointless to trust in God"; "God has abandoned me"; "Serving God is miserable."
  - Truth: Reread 6-8 for the heart attitude of a man who was living with all these lies, yet encouraged himself in God.

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David is being lied to constantly—by himself and the people around him. He has to **consciously choose** to listen and rehearse the truth, not the lie.

## Recount the Lies

- "All Israel follows Absalom—your cause is lost" (2 Sam. 15:13)
- "Mephibosheth plots against you" (2 Sam. 16:3; false disloyalty)
- "You're a murderer! God repays your evil!" (2 Sam. 16:7–8)
- "You're doing a bad job; I could do better!" (2 Sam. 15:4–6)
- *Self-loathing: Your sins disqualify you forever* (echoing Nathan's sword prophecy, 2 Sam. 12:10)
- "God has forsaken His anointed" (Psalm 3:2)
- "Trust no one—betrayal defines your relationships with others" (Absalom, Ahithophel, Mephibosheth, Shimei)

## Sidenote: Psalm 119 – David's Spiritual Growth

David experienced **spiritual growth**. While not perfect, he understood that you can start from the bottom and begin to **grow and grow**.

Each 8-verse segment of Psalm 119 shows him growing more and more—until he has that **blessed assurance** of the truth of what God says. We see a mature man, living in the ravages of his own sin, who can still **cling to the promises** of that faithful God.

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**We can't depend on muscles we haven't exercised. Faith is the same way.**

*Choose truth today—rehearse it, live it, trust it.*