

New Year 2021

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Joy and Peace in trying times

Distressed, Disappointed, Dejected! I anticipated we would all be meeting face to face at St James for Christmas and New Year. But No! Restrictions again. I read Psalm 4 and relate to it – read it reflectively.

Distress and disappointments in life are real, and we rightly call to God for answers (v.1). Faith in our righteous God doesn't mean that difficulties shouldn't happen, nor do we have to pretend they don't happen but we know that God will put things right, not always removing trouble but giving His people joy and peace in spite of our circumstances.

Deep down we know that in spite of everything – (the opposition from a godless world or the great deceiver, Satan) – the Lord has set apart His faithful servants for Himself, so no opposition to us can succeed (v.3).

So call out to the Lord... He does hear. We do well to search our own hearts before the Lord, to reflect quietly, and respond to Him in repentance.

Prayer is a necessity: in the greatest distress, prayer is our greatest resource (even when we blame God, we know we still need Him). In prayer seek God's face: sense His presence and love in your heart; know the security of being His. Joy and Peace are found in trusting Him – so sleep peacefully in His safe arms (v.7, 8)

Prayer

Lord, we are facing so many challenges, disappointments and troubles in our country at the present time. You know my personal circumstances and the struggles I face. Be my shield and protector. Keep me in the joy of Your presence, and the peace of Your protection. Help me seek Your face in prayer and to rest each night in the security of your love. Amen.

Remember

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another, and pray that we will soon be together in St James.
- I am only a phone call away 0438 455 493

With Christian love,

Robert