

**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“No matter how much individuals do through their own efforts, they cannot actively purify themselves enough to be disposed in the least degree for the divine union of the perfection of love. God must take over...”

~St. John of the Cross, Roman Catholic priest, 1542-1591

“After each failure, ask forgiveness, pick yourself up, and try again. Very often what God first helps us toward is not the virtue itself but just this power of always trying again. For however important chastity (or courage, or truthfulness, or any other virtue) may be, this process trains us in habits of the soul which are more important still. It cures our illusions about ourselves and teaches us to depend on God. We learn, on the one hand, that we cannot trust ourselves even in our best moments, and, on the other, that we need not despair even in our worst, for our failures are forgiven.”

~C.S. Lewis, Academic and Theologian, 1898-1963

“Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it. God’s saving love in Christ, however, is marked by both radical truthfulness about who we are and yet also radical, unconditional commitment to us. The merciful commitment strengthens us to see the truth about ourselves and repent. The conviction and repentance moves us to cling to and rest in God’s mercy and grace.”

~Tim Keller, American pastor

“And I can’t be running back and forth forever between grief and high delight.”

~J.D. Salinger, American author, 1919-2010

“The most confused you will ever get is when you try to convince your heart and spirit of something your mind knows is a lie.”

~Shannon Adler, American author and therapist

“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

~Deuteronomy 31:8

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “Walking with God...in Times of Confusion” – *Lindsay Whaley*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *Psalm 4 (NIV)*

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm of David.

- <sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call to you,  
my righteous God.  
Give me relief from my distress;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- <sup>2</sup> How long will you people turn my glory into shame?  
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?
- <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself;  
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- <sup>4</sup> Tremble and do not sin;  
when you are on your beds,  
search your hearts and be silent.
- <sup>5</sup> Offer the sacrifices of the righteous  
and trust in the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?”  
Let the light of your face shine on us.
- <sup>7</sup> Fill my heart with joy  
when their grain and new wine abound.
- <sup>8</sup> In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, LORD,  
make me dwell in safety.