

Rhema Christian Center
Tuesday Bible Study - November 23, 2021
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Psalm 27

This Psalm was written by King David. He is someone we can all relate to at one time or another. Sometimes he was victorious and other times not so victorious, just like us. When we read through the psalms, we hear David praising God one moment and in the next moment he is saying, God please don't let the enemy kill me.

We don't know what David was going through or had gone through when he wrote Psalm 27, but we know that he was battle tested and faith tested.

At some point in his life:

- ✓ King Saul was trying to kill him. He had grown extremely jealous of David, especially when the people began to sing that Saul had killed a thousand and David had killed ten thousand. He was constantly being chased by Saul's army; and on one occasion, Saul threw a javelin at David and missed.
- ✓ His son Absalom was trying to destroy David's career, life and take his kingship.
- ✓ David and his men returned to Ziklag from war and found their city destroyed by fire and their wives and children taken captive. He lived in ZIKLAG which was in Philistine territory after he fled Saul. His men wanted to stone him, but David found strength in the Lord.

So, David wrote Psalm 27 from a place of experience. It's divided in three parts:

- 1) Confident Trust in the Time of Danger 27:1-6
- 2) Anxious Prayer in Time of Danger 27:7-12
- 3) Reassuring Self in the Time of Danger 27:13-14

CONFIDENT TRUST IN THE TIME OF DANGER

David begins his prayer with an exuberant declaration of confidence in God and recognizes the covenant God of Israel by calling him Lord.

1-2 The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

- ✓ The Lord is my **light**--What does light do? It dispels the anxieties and dangers of darkness. Psa. 5:4 says "God is pure light, pure goodness. I John 1:5 says, . . . God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. And because we are children of the light, we are to walk in the light. God's word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. (Psa. 119:105).
- ✓ The Lord is my **salvation** which guarantees the defeat of all adversaries. Psa. 50:15 says, ". . . call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." Jesus rescued us

from a life of sin. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself. (2 Cor. 5:19).

- ✓ The Lord is my **strength** which assures victory against all assaults. David was a man of physical strength and was a skilled warrior; but he looked to God for his help. He knew where his help came from. Psa. 121:1 says, I will look unto the hills from which comes my help—my help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. David could not defeat the enemy in his own strength and neither can we.

Because God is our light, salvation and strength, we don't have to fear. Fear is a tactic of the enemy. It has a paralyzing effect and it will paralyze you if you let it. Fear is the absence of faith and we all have had to struggle with fear at one time or another whether you want to admit it or not.

I personally had to deal with fear when I received a medical diagnosis from the doctor that struck fear in my heart. I grabbed hold of the scripture we are studying tonight as well as Isa. 41:10. ". . . *do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* And, God lifted me from that place.

There are many things in this fallen world that can make you fearful. For you it might be loss of job, kids gone wild, state of world affairs, whatever). We must realize that ultimately God is in control. The enemy only has the power that God gives him and that God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

WE WANT TO LIVE A LIFE THAT IS NOT PARALYZED BY FEAR BUT EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

² *When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.*

³ *Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.*

David had his enemies coming at him in different ways—sometimes the enemy came quickly and at other times the enemy camped out. No matter how the enemy comes we want to be ready for him. David made himself ready for the enemy.

We live in a fallen world and there will always be challenges at home, in the office and in the church. John 16:33 says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world."

We are victorious through Jesus Christ. And just like David, our confidence is in the Lord, because He is our Light; we don't have to be afraid of the darkness. He is our salvation we don't have to be afraid or fear.

Communion with God

⁴ *One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.*

David's heart was fixed on one thing and that was to dwell in the house of the Lord. We probably think David was talking about heaven, but keeping this scripture in context, he was talking about the tabernacle.

In David's time, the physical tabernacle is where the presence of God symbolically dwelt. It was David's desire to bask in the holy presence of God all the days of his life to behold the beauty, graciousness, and kindness of the Lord. He wanted to be surrounded every day by the presence of God.

David could have said in this verse that he desired a multitude of things. I desire My safety; I desire for God to change My circumstances; or I want some more stuff. But that is not where David's heart was. He wanted the Creator more than created things. What is the ONE THING you desire of the Lord today? Is your desire to bask in God in the goodness of the Lord? Do you worship God through prayer, meditation, and bible study? (John 15 tells us that we are the vine and God is the branch. We are to abide in Him and He will abide in us).

A good reason to abide in God is that ⁵ . . . ***in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.***

God does not set David on the sand or any unstable platform, but on a rock – not just a rock, but a rock so high where the stormy sea can't reach him. David stood on a firm foundation.

We are planted on a firm foundation which is Jesus Christ. No wind or storm of life can move us off the rock. Storms may come and winds may blow, but we who are rooted and grounded in God's word will not be moved.

⁶ . . . ***my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.***

David tells God that he will go to the place of worship and sing praises to Him. When victory comes, sometimes we forget who won the victory for us, and we forget to praise God for it. In the busyness of life, don't forget to give God the glory and praise for what he has done. God inhabits and delights in the praises of His people. He tells us in Psa. 150 "Let everything that has breathe praise the Lord."

ANXIOUS PRAYER IN THE TIME OF DANGER

In the 7th verse, David goes from praise to prayer. It's altogether a different tone.

Plea for Mercy

⁷⁻⁸ ***Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me and answer me. When you said "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." ⁹ Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. ¹⁰ When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.***

David seems like he is in distress and is pleading for mercy. Perhaps he feels like God is not answering his prayer quickly enough or has turned a deaf ear. Rest assured that God hears the prayers of everyone, good and bad. God always answers prayer with a yes, no, or not now. We must wait on the answer!

God wants us to seek his face. Seeking God's face is desiring to know His character and wanting Him—His presence—more than any other thing. He wants us to draw near to Him. If we draw close to God, he will draw close to us. HOW DO WE DO THIS? By developing an intimate relationship with him through prayer, meditation, and spending time in his Word.

In verse 9, it appears that David did not want to do anything that was displeasing in God's sight. He did not want God to ever leave him. In Psa. 51:13, he says, take not your spirit away from me. The promise of God to those who believe in him is I will never leave you, nor forsake you.

God's love is unending and unconditional. It is such a wonderful assurance for us that no matter what happens, God will never forsake us nor leave us. Even if our parents, the closest people in our life, would leave us, God will still take care of us. He will sustain us, nourish us, and keep us in his love.

Plea for Deliverance

¹¹ Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a smooth path (David didn't say easy path—an even path), because of my enemies. ¹² Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me,

The plain path is the path of righteousness that David talked about in the 23rd Psalm. David said he didn't want to take the road of his enemies – people like Saul laid in wait to destroy him. He wanted God to guide his steps because the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.

God is our protector. We are on the straight and narrow road and God is ordering our steps just like he did David. Matt. 7:14 “Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” THIS IS THE ROAD WE WANT to be on – THE PLAIN ROAD, THE NARROW ROAD, the road that leads to eternal life.

REASSURING SELF IN TIME OF DANGER

¹³ I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

David speaks to us across the centuries. He knew in his heart that the Lord had already delivered him on many occasions and would continue to do so. He's telling us to keep the faith, fight the good fight of faith in whatever area of our lives we are attacked by the enemy. Don't faint, don't lose hope.

The message bible says, “I'm sure now I'll see God's goodness in the exuberant earth. Stay with GOD! Take heart. Don't quit. I'll say it again: Stay with GOD.”

¹⁴ Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Wait is not a passive sitting around waiting for the Lord to do something. Instead, “Waiting on the Lord is the divine activity of expecting God to work. And He never disappoints us.” (Warren Weirsbe)

***SO, BE OF GOOD COURAGE, GOD WILL STRENGTHEN
YOUR HEART; WAIT ON THE LORD!***

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Sources:

Discover the 66 Book of the Bible

Prayer, Praise and Promises: A Daily Walk Through Psalms by Warren Weirsbe