

PSALM 27

Section 1—

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the defense of my life;
Whom shall I dread?

²When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh,
My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

³Though a host encamp against me,
My heart will not fear;
Though war arise against me,
In spite of this I shall be confident.

What does each phrase mean?

- What does it mean to have the Lord as your “light” or “salvation”? The defense of your life?
- How can those truths deal with fear in our lives?
- What adversaries and enemies have you seen God protect you against in life?
- What “wars” have you seen God deliver you from?

How might this apply to our lives? Our church?

- How can I make God my light and salvation?
- How can I remind myself of this reality?
- What in life tends to make me anxious or fearful? What am I dreading? What battles am I fighting that need God’s intervention?
- What is God asking us to do when this happens in life? How can I obey Him?

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Section 2—

⁴One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall 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 meditate in His temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle;

In the secret place of His tent He will hide me;
He will lift me up on a rock.

⁶And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,

And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

What does each phrase mean?

- What does it mean to “dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of your life”?
- What does it mean to “behold the beauty of the Lord”?
- What does it mean to “meditate in His temple”?
- What kinds of life troubles might David have been referring to in verse 5?
- How did God “conceal David in His tabernacle” when trouble came?
- How might that look for us?
- What kinds of trouble do you face currently?
- What does it mean that God will “conceal me in His tabernacle...in the secret place of His tent”?
- What “rock” is David referring to?
- What does it mean to have my “head lifted up above my enemies”?

How might this apply to our lives? Our church?

- How can we “dwell in the house of the Lord all [our] days”?
- How can we “behold the beauty of the Lord” every day of our lives?
- How might God be asking you to meditate? On what?
- Who or what are our “enemies”? Our “day(s) of trouble”?
- How can we experience God concealing us in “His tabernacle”?
- How might God be wanting me to worship Him with “sacrifices with shouts of joy”? What might a similar prayer sound like in our lives/context?

Section 4—

¹¹ Teach me Your way, O LORD,
 And lead me in a level path
 Because of my foes.
¹² Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries,
 For false witnesses have risen against me,
 And such as breathe out violence.
¹³ I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see
 the goodness of the LORD
 in the land of the living.
¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
 Be strong and let your heart take courage;
 Yes, wait for the LORD.

What does each phrase mean?

- How does God “teach” us His ways?
- What does it mean for God to lead us “in level paths”?
- What does this Psalm have to teach us about praying about difficult people in our lives?
- What does it mean to “wait for the LORD”?
- What does it mean to “be strong and let your heart take courage”? How can that happen?
- Opposing people would normally have brought David to the point of despair. What enabled him to escape despair and hopelessness?

What might God want you to do with these verses this week?

- How is God asking you to let Him teach you His ways? How is he asking you to pray about problems and people?
- How, when and where does God want you to “wait for the LORD”?
- How is God calling you to “be strong and let your heart take courage”?
- What despair is threatening your life? What belief about God’s goodness do you need to engage in? How?

Section 3—

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice,
 And be gracious to me and answer me.
⁸ When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You,
 “Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.”
⁹ Do not hide Your face from me,
 Do not turn Your servant away in anger;
 You have been my help;
 Do not abandon me nor forsake me,
 O God of my salvation!
¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
 But the LORD will take me up.

What does each phrase mean?

- What was David’s request?
 - How did God seem to answer?
 - What does it mean to “seek the LORD’s face”? How do we do that?
 - What does it mean for God to “hide His face from” us? How might some of the promises of Christ and the New Testament about His promised eternal presence with us through the Holy Spirit change our prayers or provide greater assurance when it comes to feelings of abandonment?
 - How was God David’s “help”? How has He been yours recently?
 - How might David’s family have forsaken him? What does it mean for the Lord to “take [you] up”?
- What might God want you to do with these verses this week?**
- How might God want me to pray about my problems? How might He want me to “seek His face” and what will I do about that?
 - In what do I need to experience God’s “salvation.” When even family isn’t enough, how can the Lord’s presence lift us up?