

Psalm 27 (ESV): Wait for the Lord

Main point: God knows our distress; trust in and seek after him as you wait.



Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.

Background: A prayer of David. Sort of like a sermon he preaches to himself!

Focus of the study:

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.
- 3 Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.
- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.
- 5 For the Lord will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
the Lord will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock. ...
- 7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
- 8 You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, Lord, do I seek." ...
- 13 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!
- 14 Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

Questions:

1. *How does David describe the Lord?*
 - a. v. 1: My light – *What is a light like?*

- b. My salvation – *I wonder what David means by “salvation”? If you need saving, what kind of situation are you in?*
 - c. *What is the pronoun David uses?*
 - i. “MY” – Not just any light or salvation, but personal to him.
- 2. *In verse 1, what are the questions David asks? (Jewish poetry: repetition)*
 - a. Whom shall I fear?
 - b. Of whom shall I be afraid?
- 3. *What feeling do both of these questions have in common?*
 - a. Fear: *What sorts of things might David be afraid of? What causes us fear?*
 - i. Physical danger
 - ii. Emotional distress
 - iii. Worry about the future
- 4. *David actually names some things that he could be afraid of...*
 - a. v. 2: evildoers assail me, eat up my flesh
 - b. v. 3: an army encamped against me
 - c. v. 3: war arises against me
- 5. *But what is David’s resolution in the face of these fears? Who is David trusting?*
 - a. v. 3: My heart shall not fear; yet I will be confident
 - b. back to verse 1: trusting in “MY light and MY salvation”
- 6. v. 4: *What “one thing” does David ask the Lord for? (Sort of three things...)*
 - a. “That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life”
 - b. “To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord”
 - c. “To inquire [meditate] in his temple”
- 7. *WHY does he want these things? Next verse gives us a clue:*
 - a. v. 5: FOR = BECAUSE ... then David lists his reasons:
 - i. The Lord will hide me in his shelter
 - ii. The Lord will conceal me
 - iii. The Lord will lift me high upon a rock
- 8. *Where does David feel safe? Why?*
 - a. In God’s presence – *because what is God to David?*
 - i. light
 - ii. safety / salvation
 - iii. beautiful
 - iv. personal! (“my”)
- 9. *I wonder what it would feel like, when you’re in distress, to be able to hide in God’s shelter? When you’re in a storm, where do you want to be?*
- 10. *What would it feel like to be lifted high on a rock? When you’re in trouble, what does the ground around you feel like?*
- 11. *Skipping ahead a bit to v. 7: What does David ask God for this time?*
 - a. Hear me, be gracious to me, answer me
- 12. *What is God’s instruction to David?*
 - a. v. 8: “Seek my face”
 - b. *I wonder what it means to seek God’s face? When you’re looking for someone in a crowd, what is that like? What are you looking for?*
 - i. Recognition; safety; not lost
- 13. *Skipping ahead a bit to v. 13-14: What are David’s final instructions for his readers – and himself?*

- a. Believe
- b. Wait for the Lord
- c. Be strong
- d. Take courage
- e. WAIT

14. *What is waiting like? What sorts of things do we wait for?*

15. *Why do we need to be “strong and courageous” while we wait?*

- a. Need to have patience: May not see God’s answers or provision right away
- b. Need to trust in God’s goodness and God’s promises
- c. Need to seek after God, not give up
- d. Remember how God has provided in the past

- Ask for any prayer requests for today.
- Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace

Psalm 27

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