

Why We Ought Not to Worry or Fear

(Psalm 27:1–6)

WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO:

- The LORD saves and safeguards those who depend faithfully upon Him, so God's people should live by faith and not worry or fear in difficult times.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD DEFEATS FEAR AND WORRY (v.1–3):

1. Because the LORD was David's **Light**, **Salvation**, and **Stronghold** (e.g., strength or "fortress"), nobody could harm him, and there was no reason to fear or be afraid of his circumstances.
 - ❖ "**Light**" denotes the source of life, vitality, understanding, and joy. Verse 1 is the only direct equating of the name *light* to God in the OT. In the NT, John 1:5, 9 says this specifically of Jesus Christ. Light and salvation were promised to the Gentiles through the Person and Work of the Messiah (Is. 49:6; Acts 13:47).
 - ❖ "**Salvation**" is deliverance from death and darkness. It is the eternal life that man finds in God.
 - ❖ "**Stronghold**" denotes protection and a strong defense. God provides for and sustains the members of His household. He delivers His people from defeat.
2. David **remembered** how God had proven Himself **reliable** in the past (v. 2). For example, Goliath had threatened to give David's corpse to birds and beasts to eat in 1 Sam 17:44. In the face of a ruthless enemy, David **faithfully believed** that the Lord would turn the evil of the wicked back on their own heads.

3. David sought the LORD in his day of trouble and found great **courage and strength**. Though the LORD had not yet delivered him, David was confident that help would come. Thus, Psalm 27 testifies to God's **promise** to help and defend His people.

- ✓ **APPLICATION:** The same is true for us today. Sinners will be dealt with according to God's plan. We are not left to struggle alone in the miserable circumstances that may occur in this dark world. Yahweh is a sure help. He has been faithful in the past, and we can count on His faithfulness now. Our confidence in the Lord brings us Hope. God does not change and cannot lie (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8; Nu. 23:19).

COMMUNION WITH GOD BRINGS SECURITY AND HOPE (v. 4–6):

1. David sought the LORD **in His temple**; He longed to **worship** God and be in the LORD's presence (see also Ps. 23:6, to do so forever).
2. David knew there was a blessing for the one who earnestly communed with, trusted in, and depended upon God. It wasn't a promise to stop all trouble but to give **security and Hope** during it.
3. David believed the LORD would **defend** Him under His own tent and in a safe place as if set upon a high rock. "My head will be high" is a figure of triumph, as if "standing on the head of the enemy."
4. Communion with and security in the LORD lead to heartfelt **praise**. Freed from worry or fear, David sings and shouts praises and offers sacrifices of thanksgiving to God.

- ✓ **APPLICATION:** Nothing can claim victory over God's defense of His people. When Hope becomes a reality in our lives, when the Lord comes through for us repeatedly, bringing us victory, we praise Him in gratitude. We desire to live in the Household of God (see our recent study of 1 John); Jesus is light and living Hope (1 Pet. 1:3).