Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Living Like It's Not My Fight"
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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Psalms 27, 57; *Ex. 33:18; 34:6–7; Matt. 6:33; 10:19–20*

I think back to being a kid in the 1980s, riding my bike, playing Atari at a friend's house, building forts, and playing Monopoly or Uno. I wasn't thinking about interest rates, inflation, bills, or all the pressures my parents were navigating. I didn't even know enough to be anxious about them. I was a child, and I felt safe. Maybe your childhood was different. Maybe home wasn't secure and you learned far too early what it felt like to carry burdens that should never have rested on your shoulders. But either way, there's something here we need to understand about living as children of our heavenly Father.

So much of our anxiety comes from living as though every problem is ours to solve, every accusation ours to defeat, and every battle ours to fight. We trust ourselves to handle what is right in front of us, especially when the trouble gets close and we cannot see what God is doing. Yet in Psalms 27 and 57, David shows us something radically different. His enemies are real. The danger is real. He is not pretending everything is comfortable. But he chooses to live with his eyes on ADONAI, trusting that the battle belongs to Him. What would it look like to walk in obedience, stay in His presence, and live like it's not my fight?

1. IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE, TAKE SHELTER IN HIS PRESENCE (PS. 27:1–6; 57:1–2)
David begins with a declaration: *"ADONAI is my light and my salvation: whom should I fear? ADONAI is the stronghold of my life: whom should I dread?"* (Ps. 27:1). He doesn't say there are no enemies. He says that even when an army surrounds him, his heart will not fear. Then he tells us the ONE THING he desires: to dwell in the House of ADONAI, behold His beauty, and meditate in His Temple. His primary concern isn't figuring out how to control the battle. It's being with the One who holds him. *"For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His sukkah"* (Ps. 27:5). Notice whose sukkah it is. My sukkah is flimsy; it can barely keep out the rain! But He isn't promising to hide me in the shelter I can construct. He's inviting me into His.

I remember being around eight years old, getting hurt while playing baseball and being taken to the hospital at the prison where my father served as chaplain. While my head was being stitched up, a riot broke out outside. From the second floor I could see the chaos, but I wasn't afraid. I was with my parents, and someone had handed me pizza and a Coke. I had no anxiety. None. I felt safe even with a battle raging around me. That's the picture David gives us: the Lord sets us high upon a rock and gives us perspective. The battle may still be happening below, but we are hidden in His care. And Psalm 57 adds, *"In the shadow of Your wings I take refuge, until destruction passes by"* (Ps. 57:2). Refuge is both a decision we make and a place we keep returning to.

2. TRUST THE GOD WHO ACCOMPLISHES IT FOR YOU (PS. 27:7–14; 57:3–7)
David cries out to God Most High, *"to God who accomplishes it for me"* (Ps. 57:3). I love that language. He finishes it. He brings it to completion. David isn't responsible for being his own savior. As Saul pursues him and he hides in a cave, he knows God is able to send help from heaven. The Lord sends His *chesed*—His covenant lovingkindness—and His truth (Ps. 57:4). Those are not vague religious ideas. His faithful love will hold David, and His truth will answer the lies. The God who is exalted above all this mess sees the one whose enemies are breathing fire, whose words are spears, arrows, and sharp swords. He has not lost sight of His child.

It's often the words of others that make us want to fight hardest. Someone misrepresents us, falsely accuses us, or threatens what matters to us, and we spend the night rehearsing arguments in our heads. David knows that feeling. In Psalm 27 he speaks of false witnesses breathing violence, yet he asks the Lord, *"Teach me Your way, ADONAI, and lead me on a level path"* (Ps. 27:11). David wants to respond in obedience rather than be consumed by self-defense. *"Surely I trust that I will see the goodness of ADONAI in the land of the living"* (Ps. 27:13). That goodness may not yet be visible; his enemies are still at the door. So he says, *"Wait for ADONAI"* (Ps. 27:14). Waiting is not giving up. It is refusing to take over a fight we have entrusted to Him.

3. WORSHIP THROUGH THE DARKNESS AND AWAKEN THE DAWN (PS. 27:6; 57:8–12). There's something remarkable about David's response to danger. In Psalm 27, while enemies surround him, he intends to offer sacrifices with shouts of joy and sing praises to ADONAI. In Psalm 57, while he is still surrounded by those he calls lions, he declares, *"My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing, yes, I will make music"* (Ps. 57:8). It's as if he is saying, "Lord, steady my heart." So what does he do? He begins to worship! He doesn't have to wait until Saul stops pursuing him or until everybody stops speaking against him. The decision to praise is his declaration that he trusts the Lord more than the circumstances he can see.

Then David calls to his instruments, *"Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn"* (Ps. 57:9). I love that picture. We usually wait for the sunrise to wake us, but David says he will wake up the dawn with his praise. At the darkest moment, he starts singing. He remembers that the glory of God is not merely a brilliant display; when Moses asked to see His glory, ADONAI revealed His own compassionate, gracious, faithful character (Ex. 33–34). That is the same *chesed* and truth David trusts to fight for him. *"For Your lovingkindness is great up to the heavens, and Your truth to the skies"* (Ps. 57:11). So while the world is shouting lies, let His truth be your covering. Worship before the morning comes.

CONCLUSION
Living like it's not my fight doesn't mean doing nothing. It means doing the one thing David keeps bringing us back to: seeking the face of ADONAI, walking in His ways,

listening to Him, praying, and obeying. Yeshua taught us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33). Yet how often do we treat prayer like a last resort? We tell ourselves there isn't time to pray because there are too many things to handle. The problems keep popping up like a game of whack-a-mole, and we keep swinging, exhausted, as though everything depends on us. Prayerlessness can reveal where our trust has been resting. But that conviction is an invitation to return, not a reason to hide in shame.

Today, bring the battle you've been carrying into the presence of the Father. Maybe it's financial pressure, a painful accusation, an impossible situation in your family, or a fear that won't let you sleep. You do not need to pretend it isn't real. Bring it to Him and say, "Lord, forgive me for trusting myself more than I trust You. I've been living like this all rests on my shoulders. I give this fight to You. Teach me Your way. I want to seek Your face." Then make that surrender practical: stop and pray before you react; choose obedience over retaliation; worship even if the cave is still dark. The battle may not be over tonight. But you can rest in His sukkah, wait for ADONAI, and trust the God who accomplishes it for you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Ps. 27:1–6, how does David's desire to dwell in ADONAI's presence change the way he sees his enemies?
2. What does it mean that David takes refuge in God while danger is still present in Ps. 57:1–4?
3. Which current pressure are you most tempted to treat as a battle you must fight alone? What would surrender look like in practice this week?
4. When criticism, accusations, or uncertainty keep you awake, what would it look like to seek ADONAI before rehearsing your defense?
5. How can David's decision to "awaken the dawn" through worship shape the way you respond before your circumstances change?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, You are my light, my salvation, and the stronghold of my life. Forgive me for taking back the battles I say I have entrusted to You. When fear rises and the trouble feels close, draw my heart into Your presence. Hide me in Your sukkah, lift my eyes above what surrounds me, and teach me Your ways. Send Your *chesed* and Your truth into every place where fear and lies have been speaking louder than Your Word. Steady my heart so I can worship You in the darkness, not merely after the trouble passes. Let me seek first Your kingdom, walk faithfully in obedience, and live with the confidence of a child held safely by the Father.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.