



**No Fear
Be Strong and Wait on the Lord
Psalm 27**

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Do we know what fear is? Many if not all of us do. In the Bible, God is in the habit of telling us to live fearlessly. “More than anything else, fear keeps us from fulfilling God’s will for our lives. We fear failure, being different, being labeled as religious fanatics, etc.” (Higle 2010, 7)

The very first time we read of fear, it is a direct result of the fall.



Genesis 3:8–10

“Late in the afternoon a breeze began to blow, and the man and woman heard the LORD God walking in the garden. They were frightened and hid behind some trees. The LORD called out to the man and asked, “Where are you?” The man answered, **“I was naked, and when I heard you walking through the garden, I was frightened and hid!”**” (CEV)

Fear can be healthy, or destructive. We are encouraged to fear God, to have a correct awe of God. What we just witnessed take place in Genesis 3 was the beginning of fear, a fear of God because of sin and a fear of being judged for that sin. That is real fear, but for believers, that no longer exists.

I don't know about you, but I have learned that fear many times comes from my own imagination. Most of the news media outlets today know that and they prey on our innate ability to become fearful if given just the right snippets of information.

During hurricane season, there are those who want the audience and want you to be fearful of what is coming. They go out of their way to show only the most fear producing content. The goal, to glue you to their channel.

And strangely enough, in those states not prone to tropical storms, like California, the news media create the impression everyone in Florida is going to need a boat due to all of the rain, wind and storm surge. They are producing fear to prevent migration out of California, land of earthquakes. Oh, and they work hard to produce fear of that too. I still get nervous sleeping near a bookshelf with books on it.

We also witnessed the same during the Covid but then it was government, big pharma and others creating fear to drive you to getting a vaccine that has now been proven to be dangerous.

Satan preys on our fear. Fear will drive millions to the mark of the beast. “Fear summons powerful predictive resources that tell us what might come next. It is that which might come next that we fear—what might happen, not what is happening now. An absurdly literal example helps demonstrate this: As you stand near the edge of a high cliff, you might fear getting too close. If you stand right at the edge, you no longer fear getting too close, you now fear falling ... [then] if you do fall, you no longer fear falling—you fear landing.... Panic, the great enemy of survival, can be perceived as an unmanageable kaleidoscope of fears.” (Pierce and Heidler 2004, 58)

Fear, many times starts in the mind. We know that God is in control, and we know He loves us and wants the best for us. But we begin to manufacture things that call His faithfulness into question and we move from confidence in Christ to fear. Satan really does want us there.

David will tell us here in Psalm 27 that we do not need to go there. We can live fearless in Christ.

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (NKJV)

There is the healthy side to fear as well. “Fear is a God-given natural response when our physical or psychological safety is threatened. **Courage is not the absence of fear, but it is living by faith and doing what is right in the face of illegitimate fear objects. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and the only fear that can overcome all other fears.**” (Anderson 2004, 97)

Lamentations 3:57

“You came near when I called on you; you said, ‘Do not fear!’” (ESV)



I do want to give you a warning of the teaching today. We are going to be venturing into a bit of theology today. We will be discussing some of the names of God as well as His attributes, I will do my best to slice the meat up and make it as digestible as possible.

Since we study the Bible chapter by chapter and verse by verse, this does indeed take place from time to time. We will indeed, hit some meat in this study.

Psalms 27: title—3

“A Psalm of David. **The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom should I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom should I dread?** When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. If an army encamps against me, My heart will not fear; If war arises against me, In spite of this I am confident.” (NASB 2020)

And we encounter a name of God right at the very beginning. YAHWEH (Jehovah) Ori. The Lord my light.

In the Hebrew David starts off with a pun. Because the Lord is my light (’ôrî), the psalmist asks, [whom shall] I fear? (’îrā’). The pun underscores the basic causal link in the psalm—because of faith in the Lord, the psalmist can face any crisis without being paralyzed by fear. (Jacobson and Tanner 2014, 267)

Practically speaking though, David states clearly here at the beginning that the Lord, YAHWEH, is his light, his salvation and his fortress.

Do we fully understand all that means for us? The Lord is light, that is a truth that the Bible starts off with in Genesis 1 and carries through to Revelation 22.

Genesis 1:3–4

“Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.” (NASB 2020)

That was Day One, and here is the thing, God did not create the sun or the stars as well as the moon until the fourth day. But there was light starting on Day One.

The rabbis also recognized that this was a unique light, not the light of the sun. In rabbinic theology, this was a special light that functioned only during these seven days of creation, and then it did not function thereafter. **The phrase “Let there be” is one word in Hebrew: yehi. The phrase “and there was” is also in Hebrew one word: vayehi. Both words, yehi and vayehi, are related to God’s Name, which is the four Hebrew letters of YHWH, which is the source of the Hebrew word “to be.” So God, Who is the I AM, said: Let there be ... and there was. This was God’s first spoken word, yehi, let there be, and this word is also related to the very Name of God.** According to rabbinic interpretation of this verse, when God said: Let there be light, it was to reveal that God will ultimately illuminate Israel with the light of the Messiah of Whom it is written [quoting Isaiah 60:1], the light being, of course, the Messiah. Therefore, both this phrase, as well as Isaiah 60:1, was given clear messianic overtones in rabbinic theology. (Fruchtenbaum 2008, 45)

The Rabbis were wrong about this light not functioning afterwards. We see it referenced at the Exodus (Exodus 13:21) as well as by Paul later (1 Timothy 6:15-16).

This light is what David is talking about here in verse 1 and is also the light that all of us who are followers of Jesus Christ will experience for all eternity in the New Jerusalem.



Revelation 22:5

“And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illuminate them; and they will reign forever and ever.” (NASB 2020)

John also talked about this light in 1 John.

1 John 1:5–7

“This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: **God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.**” (NLT)

God is light. Obviously, this must be an attribute of God. He is Jehovah Ori. There are two ways to look at this.

Since the Bible declares that “God is light,” this attribute is of His very essence. But the essence of God is pure actuality; in fact, from pure actuality the other essential metaphysical attributes of God can be derived. Hence, God as light can be derived from His pure actuality. One of the characteristics of God’s light is the ability to enlighten. This enlightenment is an act of the intellect both on the part of the enlightenment and of the enlightened. Thus, God’s attribute of light is based in His omniscience, which enables Him to enlighten other minds. (Geisler 2003, 226-227)

When David tells us the Lord is my light, he is also saying this one who is light as part of His essence, it is who God is, and whose light also illuminates his mind to the truth, and is his, personally.

David has a relationship with Him because the Lord is my light. As followers of Jesus Christ, we too can state the Lord is our light. His essence of being light is evident in us in the power of the Holy Spirit to open up His word to us, show us truth and enlighten our minds.

Psalms 27:1

“**The LORD** is my light and **my salvation**; Whom should I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom should I dread?” (NASB 2020)

The Lord is salvation. The name Isaiah carries this meaning in it.

Jehovah Moshiekh, The Lord your Savior. This also is all about an attribute of God, His love, also called His goodness.

When we talk about God’s love, there are those who move towards a universalist bent. God is omnibenevolent, and He truly is, but does that translate into everybody wins? Not really.

The truth is God is indeed omnibenevolent, but that is not His only attribute. Those who want universalism ignore other attributes of God that come into play like His holiness and His justice. There are indeed those who teach that God will not judge anyone because of His love, but His holiness will indeed require it. His justice will indeed require it. But God is at the same time, wholly and completely love. His love has provided the remedy for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Anyone ever heard the term, God’s grace is irresistible, implying that if you are to be saved, there is nothing you can do to stop it.



That is a popular term among some who lean into reformed theology. God's love, through which He provides salvation, is indeed omnibenevolent. Jesus died on the cross for all mankind, not just for the elect. The offer is for all, but not all will take advantage of it to be saved. "In view of God's omnibenevolence, it follows that grace cannot be irresistible on the unwilling, for a God of complete love cannot force anyone to act against his will. Forced love is intrinsically impossible: A loving God can work persuasively, but not coercively." (Geisler 2003, 370)

Another term that comes up with discussions of irresistible grace is limited atonement.

John 3:16–17

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (ESV)

The word used for world is kosmos which means all of those on the entire earth. Jesus did not die just for the elect, but for all who would believe.

And about the idea of God's love, His omnibenevolence, meaning everyone wins. God is just, God is holy. We were created in the image of God meaning we have free will, choice. We are moral beings who can decide to follow Christ or not to follow Christ. "God wants all to be saved, but it is not possible morally to save people against their will (by irresistible grace on the unwilling). Hence, there is no guarantee that all people will be saved. God can only save the willing; His omnibenevolence will not allow Him to do everything His omnipotence could otherwise do." (Geisler 2003, 370)

David has told us two important truths that help to defeat fear. The realization that the creator of everything, the God of the universe, the source of light and the one who can open up my mind to His word and truth is also my salvation because of His love. I mean really now, with those two things already in our favor, why fear anything?

But there is one more thing that David brings up here in the beginning of this psalm, the Lord is his defense, his stronghold.

Jehovah Maginnenu, the Lord our defense. What we are talking about here is the providence of God.

He promises protection for the righteous, not for the presumptuous. (Geisler 2003, 576)

David looks at the protection provided by the Lord; he is not presuming on the Lord. Presumption would look like me jumping out of an airplane without a parachute relying on God to protect me from the very firm laws of gravity and my gross stupidity.

When Satan was tempting Jesus, he basically dared Jesus to jump off a high place quoting from Psalm 91:11-12.

Matthew 4:7

"Jesus responded, 'The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.''" (NLT)

Satan intentionally misinterpreted the scripture; he does that all the time, in implying that if Jesus threw Himself off of the high place, God would protect Him. Satan earned the rebuke he received there, but this also is a teaching moment for us dealing with the providence of God. "The lesson is this: We can trust God's providence to care for us if we live reasonable lives according to His laws, but we should not presume upon God's providence to protect us if we take unnecessary risks." (Geisler 2003, 576)



Or going back to my ill-fated skydiving without a parachute example, falling to the ground at around 135mph presuming God will protect me is exactly that, presumption. We can trust Him for protection, and there are indeed times He protects us from ourselves but walk carefully on this. Faith versus presumption can become a problem.

“Faith rests upon the promises of God; presumption distorts the promises of God. Opportunity comes to faith; presumption strains to create opportunity. Faith opportunities are entered with the eyes open; presumptuous action is entered with the eyes closed. Faith counts the cost; presumption expects a free ride. Faith operates on a strain as do the strings of a violin; presumption operates under a strain as does the improvident debtor. The price of faith is paid before the act; the price of presumption is paid after the act. Faith is peace; presumption is neurotic. Faith is a gift of the Spirit; presumption is a hallucination of the flesh. Faith is confident; presumption is desperate. Faith walks hand in hand with God; presumption cringes in company with pride.” (Smith 2019, 536)

The three major points David begins with in psalm 27 are in relation to who God is. The confidence David has is not in himself, but it is in the one he has confidence in and now we know why. God is light, God is love and salvation and God cares for those who belong to Him. He is indeed worthy of our trust and faith. David asks the question, “whom should I fear?” The answer is the Lord and only the Lord and no one else and it is because of the three attributes we have just covered. Indeed, who would we fear if God is all of this for us, and He is. That is called assurance, presumption. Again, that word.

We must carefully distinguish between assurance and presumption. A false assurance is the worst delusion and insanity, but too many people bless themselves even while they are outside the door of the kingdom. Assurance and presumption come from different root causes. Assurance comes from the Spirit of God enlightening the heart and working childlike affections. Presumption comes from a lack of experiential knowledge of the depth and danger of one’s sin and the clinging presence of self-love and self-flattery. (Beeke and Smalley 2014, 177)

Proverbs 16:2

“All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.” (ESV)

Psalms 27:1–3

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom should I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom should I dread? **When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.** If an army encamps against me, My heart will not fear; If war arises against me, In spite of this I am confident.” (NASB 2020)

First David gives us three incredibly strong reasons why fear is not an option for the believer. He then moves to prove the point by providing some history.

There was a point in his life, more than one, where he was surrounded and the situation looked desperate. The one common factor was that those who were aligned with King Saul or were true foreign enemies of the nation wanted David dead.

When David talks about evil doers, he is talking about those who do this deliberately. When people who do evil deliberately came upon me, in other words, they lay in wait to attack him.

That is how the enemy of our souls operates. The devil is evil deliberately and he lies in wait to attack.



1 Peter 5:6–8

“Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that at the right time he may lift you up. **Throw all your anxieties upon him, because he cares about you. Stay sober, stay alert!** Your enemy, the Adversary, stalks about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (CJB)

In agreement with what David has said, Peter too has us place ourselves under God’s mighty hand, His providence and protection and among the anxieties we cast on Him, includes fear. We are not fearful but instead on the alert and ready for action. The reason is simple; the enemy is lying in wait to attack.

The enemies of our souls are not deficient in ferocity, they yield no quarter, and ought to have none in return. See in what danger David was; in the grip and grasp of numerous, powerful, and cruel enemies, and yet observe his perfect safety and their utter discomfiture! (Spurgeon n.d., 2)

David is telling us that there have been times in his life where it looked really dark, Those who had gathered against him wanted his annihilation. But they stumbled and fell. Or as in 1 Samuel 23:27, got a call to leave and fight the Philistines rather than close the trap on David.

David is remembering all of those times he was protected by the Lord.

David has complete confidence in God as should we. In the past, as a military leader, he has also relied on the same confidence provided by the Lord.

Whatever it is that is going on in your life today, I doubt it is as urgent as King Saul having troops surround you and in the process of moving in on your position. David said the Lord took care of him. He will take care of you and me too.

Psalms 27:3

“If an army encamps against me, My heart will not fear; If war arises against me, **In spite of this I am confident.**” (NASB 2020)

Why the confidence from David, because of the relationship and the time he spends making that relationship work. His private obedience with no one watching, his integrity when no one is there, is why he can reflect such confidence in the Lord publicly.

There are two kinds of people that we see. There are those who are faithfully following the Lord is everything they do and what you see is the result of how they live all the time. There may be the occasional slip, like with David, but they are consistent. There is no fear.

Then there are those who want you to believe everything is okay. They are trying to reflect calm on the outside while inside, they are unsettled just as their relationship with the Lord is unsettled.

This is the same thinking that James wrote about when he was comparing doers of the word versus hearers of the word. David was a doer.

David’s confidence in God was battle tested. He did not have fair-weather faith that lived in always-easy circumstances. This isn’t the joy of a man in a comfortable monastery; this is the song of a man who knew God’s goodness even in danger and despair. (Guzik 2013, Ps 27:1-3)

If God’s word said it, he did it. Some of us like what we hear in God’s word, but we stop short of doing it because, well, there is a cost.



I knew I would be belittled due to serving in Christian radio while also working a job. I was, it was a cost I had to consider.

What is it that God's word is calling out to you to step out in faith and do. We hear what He says, but then we come up with reasons, and some are good, as to why not.

God called us to start Calvary Chapel. I knew that was what He wanted, I prayed with others, He confirmed and reconfirmed multiple times. But in my mind Satan was whispering "you're too old." Other things included "you don't have a building, this is scary, there is active opposition against you," and on and on. All true. But also all designed by the enemy to make me a hearer of the word and not a doer. A doer looks at the circumstances and says, "let's see what the Spirit wants to do." James was my friend.

James 1:19–27

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: **You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.** Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. **But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.** If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." (NLT)

David's confidence arises from the fact he is a doer of the word and has been taking steps of faith and growing in the Lord.

He took the supernatural perspective and saw things the way God would see things. I am reminded of Elisha.

2 Kings 6:15–17

"When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Oh, sir, what will we do now?" the young man cried to Elisha. **"Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!" The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.**" (NLT)

David's eyes, just like Elisha's, were on the Lord. He saw the situation through His eyes.

The temptation we have is to fear what is taking place because we take our eyes off of the Lord and then look at the situation with our own eyes, and not His. We too, with our eyes on the Lord and walking in His paths, can also say how confident we are in Him.

Psalms 27:4–6

"One 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. For on the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; He will hide me in the secret place of His tent; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD." (NASB 2020)



David switches from his celebration of his confidence in the Lord to a more contemplative perspective and looks at some of the reasons supporting his confidence.

He has learned to pray consistently and constantly about one thing. He always is praying about this; it dominates his prayer life. He loves to worship the Lord at the Tabernacle, he loves the peace and the calm and the Spirit who is residing there and as such, he wants to live there.

As we grow in the Lord and become more and more like Him, we too find ourselves looking forward to the day we are with Him.

David wanted to be surrounded everyday with the presence and beauty of the Lord. This is our future reality.

Revelation 21:1–4

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”**” (ESV)

For David, when he says this is his desire, his prayer, he is saying this in a manner that does not show up anywhere else in the Old Testament.

It is a statement of exclusive trust in the LORD. His faith is such that he wants to live continually in God’s presence. In particular he wants to see the glory of the LORD symbolised by the ark of the covenant and the associated ceremonies of worship, and to be able to see the LORD at the sanctuary. (Harman 2011, 246)

David not only wanted to dwell with the Lord, but His desire also reflects a desire to be with God’s people as they gather to worship at the Tabernacle as well. Were there problems there, absolutely, the Ark was elsewhere, there had been issues with the High Priest leading to Samuel and David becoming anointed of God. Murder had also taken place there. But David saw the spiritual aspects, not physical.

Do we have issues in the church today? Absolutely, but it is His choice of how to reach the world with the good news of the gospel. It is His church and there are under shepherds who are faithful as well as those who are not so much. And yes, there are also those buildings and entities that are churches in name only as the Spirit has left long ago.

Let me put it like this. There is something to be experienced of God in church that it is not quite so easy to experience elsewhere. Otherwise, why have churches? (Boice 2005, 241)

David has reached the point in his life where everything for him can be summed up in the statement we see here in verse 4. Paul also reached that point in his life.

Philippians 3:13–14

“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. **But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**” (ESV)



As you and I grow in Christ, becoming more like Him, we too find ourselves in agreement with David as well as with Paul. Dr. McGee called this a whittling down to basics.

We are frustrated, under tension and pressure all the time. It is wonderful to whittle your life down to what is important. It is a relief to reduce your life to the lowest common denominator...I have whittled my life down to the one thing I want to do—teach the Bible. That is all I am doing. My life has been whittled down to that, and I am enthusiastic about it. I believe this is what God wants me to do. (McGee 1997, 719)

We know where David's "happy place" is, as well as Paul's and Dr. McGee's. What is or where is our "happy place?" That place where we know we are where He wants us to be.

So, how do I get there? First of all, it is only obtainable through Jesus Christ. If you do not know Jesus, that would be your first move.

Romans 5:1–2

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (NKJV)

You see, we have, in Christ, access to God. We begin with this and rejoice in Christ and the direct access we now enjoy. David had access through the mercy seat on the ark, but we have access through the work of Christ on the cross.

Spending time with our Lord, exercising the access we have, is the place we begin and as He makes us more like Jesus, we begin to see what that one thing He has for us is. I guarantee it is serving Him, and could be as simple as continuing to do what you are doing right now.

When He asks us to take a step of faith, take it. We have no idea where we will end up, but it is in taking those steps of faith that take us to where David and Paul were talking about.

Psalms 27:5

"For on the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; He will hide me in the secret place of His tent; He will lift me up on a rock." (NASB 2020)

Where could anyone be hidden in the Tabernacle? The Holy of Holies. Only the High Priest could enter and only after much preparation. But David says the Lord, on the day of trouble, will conceal him there. One of David's descendants would indeed be hidden in the Temple.

2 Kings 11:2–3

"So Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Ahaziah's son Joash and stole him away from the rest of the royal descendants who were to be executed. She hid him and his nurse in the room where the bed covers were stored. So he was hidden from Athaliah and escaped execution. He hid out with his nurse in the LORD's temple for six years, while Athaliah was ruling over the land." (NET 2nd ed.)

There, on the Ark is the mercy seat. That is where the blood was applied and where God would meet man. The blood of Jesus forever satisfied this requirement and now we have access. We too can come to the Holy of Holies and be concealed by Him.

We are eternally safe and secure in Jesus.



Matthew 27:50–51

“Jesus again gave a loud cry and breathed his last. **Then the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.** The earth shook, the rocks split apart,” (GNB)

Thanks to Jesus, we have direct access now to the throne room of the universe. That is where He hides us. Talk about the ultimate security.

And because of that, we see and experience what David does.

Psalms 27:6

“And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

In Christ, we have already won. The enemy cannot possibly touch us because of who it is we serve and whose family we are now adopted into. He will try and if we allow him, he can still cause damage. But many times, he will turn to and use others who are not in the Spirit or to those who are unbelievers to press the attack.

Our safety and protection is the one we trust.

The safety of believers however is not in the walls of the temple, but in the God of the temple and their comfort in communion with him. (Henry 1994, 779)

David then prays. Even though he has confidence in the Lord, that does not stop him from praying.

Psalms 27:7–10

“Hear, LORD, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me and answer me. **When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You, “I shall seek Your face, LORD.” 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, God of my salvation!** For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the LORD will take me up.” (NASB 2020)

As commanded by the Lord, David is seeking God's face. Yes, he has confidence, but he also knows who he is and who God is. He asks for God's grace. Is David responding to a situation that could produce fear, absolutely and he knows who to turn to.

Is David doubting the Lord? Not at all, he is relying on the Lord. He asks for His grace and that the Lord would answer his prayer. HE even reminds the Lord of His command to Israel to seek His face, David says he is doing so.

In typical middle eastern fashion, he also reminds the Lord that he is His servant. Servants are allowed access to the presence of the master and that is what David wants.

But David is also fully aware that if there is sin in the way, then God could turn away until he repents and forsakes the sin.

Sin is indeed the most potent hindrance to prayer, and we have the provision already provided by our gracious savior in 1 John 1:9.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (NASB 2020)



As we come to the Lord, it is imperative that the accounts are kept clean so that our prayers are not hindered. One more thing too, if we want God to hear our voices as we pray and answer our prayers, that means when He provides us instruction or guidance through His Spirit and the Word, we follow it. We listen for His voice and obey.

Just as David found confidence in his obedience, we can as well.

When he was in exile from Saul, David had to take his family to Moab for protection. Because of that, he couldn't run over and throw ideas at his folks for help.

Some of us, when we come to Christ, one or both of our parents do not join us. And in some cases that can be a problem.

I was saved, Dad wasn't and as a result, as I was getting ready for college, his advice was pretty worthless to me. I would listen, and worked hard to honor him, but he wasn't saved and some of his ideas just would not work.

David could not seek guidance from his parents due to distance; it was as if they had forsaken him. I couldn't because Dad was not a believer. So, where do you turn? To the Lord.

He says that the Lord will take him up. Later in Psalm 68, David will say this.

Psalm 68:5

"A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy dwelling." (NASB 2020)

What this also tells us is that as important as our parents are, our bond with the Lord is stronger.

Psalm 27:11–14

"Teach me Your way, LORD, And lead me on a level path Because of my enemies. Do not turn me over to the desire of my enemies, For false witnesses have risen against me, And the violent witness. I certainly believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD." (NASB 2020)

The desire for David is to be taught the ways of the Lord. That is the only way to do life. All of us need this, we need Him to teach us his ways and provide us the guidance to do life. Or as David said in Psalm 25:4, "Make me know." Not let me know, but make me.

Earlier he said make me, now he says teach me, what are we learning about David's faith in his capabilities to naturally follow the Lord...nonexistent would be a good word. Paul knew that as well.

Romans 7:18–20

"And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it." (NLT)

The temptation is there to cut corners. Either due to attacks of the enemy or pressures coming from the world and those in it. "The additional clause 'because of my enemies' can in the context in which it stands have hardly any other meaning than that [David] the poet, feeling that the accusations of his adversaries are justified at least in part, endeavours to give them no further offence by his conduct, and in this way to remove the basis for any further accusations so that his enemies may be silenced." (Weiser 1998, 253)



Psalm 27:12–13

“Do not turn me over to the desire of my enemies, For false witnesses have risen against me, And the violent witness. I certainly believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.” (NASB 2020)

David not only had folks trying to hunt him down and kill him, but there were also groups working hard to destroy his reputation by spreading slander about him. That is a tactic the enemy has not abandoned. Here in the west, we see the enemy actively trying to destroy the reputation of Jesus followers. We too need to be on the lookout constantly so that we do not provide them what they want.

Some do when they fail. Others, solely because they do not fail, instead have lies manufactured by about them.

We have seen more horrible lies about Charlie Kirk since his martyrdom than while he was still here. The disappointing thing, some come from so called Christians who have their own agendas they are pursuing rather than the truth.

Our culture today hates truth, it more closely identifies with Satan and as a result we are subjected to marginalization. That is a form of persecution. Spiritual warfare even exists just in trying to get space for a church.

We have encountered several retail locations that have been quite up front in their refusal to lease to a church. The Lord will indeed provide the property He wants us to have, even if it is one that presently says no.

We must remember that the world is unified in its goal. Destroy the church or remake it into a more willing participant in the culture.

We find ourselves agreeing with David with the confident assertion of trust in the Lord in the here and now and that we will indeed see him operate in the land of the living with His saving power.

Psalm 27:14

“Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

The confident no fear lifestyle is only possible by our learning to and continuing to wait on the Lord. We can get all up in arms because things are not happening as we would like, wait on the Lord.

We wonder if God hears us and struggle to understand why we do not have a building and begin to fear that we are in danger of going away. Wait on the Lord.

Waiting on the Lord is how we stay away from fear. We look to who it is we trust and what He has done in the past.

And when we look at all the promises He has made...we remain confident, we wait on the Lord. and we continue in prayer.

Let's pray.



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