

Psalm 27 (Pt 1) - Fear (9/2/2023)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/tz6kn58/shabbat-service-09-02-2023>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

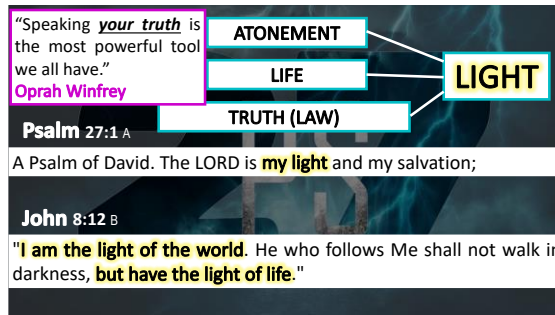
Today, we are starting a new series on Psalm 27. For those of you who are not aware, this is a Psalm of David. For me personally, David is one of the most influential men in all of Scripture. It's absolutely incredible the things David went through and experienced: the trial of tribulation, the war, the mercy that this guy showed others, the wisdom that he deployed, the understanding he had, and the heart he had.

As you read the psalms, David shows you the deepest recesses of his heart and what he felt. You can peer through his soul because he bears it. He brings it out. It's absolutely breathtaking. It's filled with edification and encouragement. You will be challenged by the life of David in an incredible way.

David has been instrumental with my faith as a whole. It is so awesome. This will be a treat to be able to delve in and to hear from this anointed man of God. One of the most profound characters in all of Scripture that has taught me the fear of the Lord is David. I've learned to fear the Lord through his life. So, I assure you, as we delve into this psalm, there will be good things that come out of this.

Before we jump in, I want to cover a couple things about this psalm. There are only 14 verses, so it is not very long. Just so you know, we will not get done today, but we will take a few weeks to go through this. There is a lot within this psalm that needs to be emphasized. We need to dig into this and appreciate the weight of what David conveyed, and that is not something you can speed through.

There are a few psalms coupled together that are called war psalms. Psalm 27 is a war psalm. I assure you, as we go through this, this psalm will live up to its name. We will learn about the art of war. We will learn about battle. We will be given tools that are absolutely necessary for us to have victory. We will be told things we need to possess. We will be told things we don't need to possess. We will be given strategy. In my opinion, this will be a very productive study. So, let's jump right into it:



Psalm 27:1a—^{1a} **The LORD (Yahweh) is my light and my salvation (yesha)....**

This is an interesting text considering what we discussed for the last couple weeks as we delved into Genesis 1:3 in a really deep way. God brought forth light into the world, and the darkness could not overcome it. Then we discovered that this light is none other than the Messiah Yeshua.

John 8:12—Jesus, *Yeshua*, said—¹² **"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."** (Emphasis added). I am bringing up what Yeshua said of Himself because when you understand Yeshua said, **"I am the light of the world"** (John 8:12), it changes the way you understand what David said, **"The LORD, Yahweh, is my light and my salvation (yesha)."** (Psalm 27:1) (Emphasis added).

It dramatically impacts what we walk away with in understanding Psalm 27:1. The Hebrew word for salvation is *yesha*. **Yahweh is my light and my (yesha)**, which is the base form of *Yeshua*. He is my light and salvation.

So, the statement, **"The LORD is my light and my salvation,"** is crying out Messianic in nature, and it's not just crying out Messianic in nature, it's really crying out One, *chad*, because I can show you in Scripture (I will not show you since I've already done that) where it says the Father is light, and then I can show you Scripture that the Son, Yeshua, is light.

Isaiah 45:15 says, "the Father is the Savior", and yet in the New Testament it says, "Yeshua is Savior." In Titus 1:3-4, the Apostle Paul said that the Father is our Savior, and in the next verse he said that Yeshua is our Savior. It's not either, or; it's the fact that they are One, *echad*.

So, **"The LORD (Yahweh) is my light and my salvation,"** is such a prolific and profound statement to come out of the gate. This is the foundation text for everything that follows. Everything will be built upon **"The LORD (Yahweh) is my light and my salvation."**

I want to peel back another layer. We will borrow from some of what we learned in the last series because it's very important. When David said, **"The LORD (Yahweh) is my light,"** what does that mean? How are we supposed to understand this? One thing we learned is in Psalm 118:27—²⁷ **God is the LORD, And He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.** We learned that God has given us light. We know scripture defines itself. It's defining light in the context of atonement. So, when David came out of the gate and said, **"The LORD (Yahweh) is my light,"** he was saying, "He is my atonement." Yeshua is his atonement and forgiveness. This is how he is redeemed.

John 8:12—Jesus, *Yeshua*, said—¹² **“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”** (Emphasis added). Light is equated to life. This is the context *Yeshua* used this. So, when David said, **“The LORD (*Yahweh*) is my light,”** he was saying, “He is my life.”

Proverbs 6:23—²³ **“For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light** (Proverbs 6:23). And what is the Law? It is truth. Light is defined as truth in Scripture. So, when David said, **“The LORD (*Yahweh*) is my light,”** he was saying, “He is my truth.”

So, **“The LORD (*Yahweh*) is my light,”** is a profound statement when you understand the depth of it: The Lord is my light; the Lord is my atonement; the Lord is my life; and the Lord is my truth.

This is interesting considering the mantra that's going on today. Everyone is saying, “Well, this is my truth.” Oprah Winfrey said, “Speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we all have.” Everyone has their own truth. If you could ask David today, “What is your truth?” David would say, “The Lord God is my truth; He is my light; He is my atonement; He is my life; He is my salvation.” This is a powerful statement.

Psalms 27:1b—David continued—^{1b} **whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid** (emphasis added)?

David conveyed the exact same concept that the Apostle Paul conveyed in Romans 8:31—³¹ **If God is for us, who can be against us?** The Apostle Paul asked this in a rhetorical fashion. David also asked a rhetorical question, **“Whom shall I fear?”** The answer is no one because the God of Israel is unmatched. He's unparalleled. There is no equal. There is no darkness that has power over this light. It's awesome.

David is expressing his magnificent faith, his hope, and his trust in the Living God. Listen, this is so important. His faith in believing the Lord is his light, and his salvation is so powerful that it has the ability to conquer the spirit of fear, which takes down humanity every day. One of the most vile, diabolical, and vicious weapons that the enemy deploys against us is the spirit of fear. The spirit of fear is designed to bring you into bondage, make you a slave, and control your every thought and move. That is the function of the spirit of fear. It is not something to mess with or underestimate. It is deadly, and it comes in all sorts of forms and fashions.

Some people deal with a fear of failure. It controls their behavior. The things they should be doing, they don't do. The things they shouldn't be doing, they do. They go forward when they shouldn't because of fear.

The fear of rejection is powerful. Some of you do not speak up when you are called to speak up because you are worried about what the world thinks. You are fearful. What will they think if I talk about Jesus? What will they think if I take a stand against abortion, and I call it evil?

Some are fearful they won't have enough. Think of Israel in the wilderness. They went out on Shabbat when God said, **“Keep the Shabbat holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is holy.”** Israel went out on the Shabbat and collected manna. (Exodus 16:25-29). What drove them to do this? Fear of not having enough.

Think about how people are driven by fear and get their security by what they have in their savings account. As long as that number's respectable according to their interpretation, they feel secure. To

make sure it stays that way, they will make certain decisions they should not be making. They will do certain things out of fear.

Some are fearful of persecution. When things get really heavy in the world, some Christians will stand down for fear of being persecuted, instead of standing up for righteousness.

In every single case, fear (this dark power that will destroy you) will take you away from the love of God, from the Word of God, and from obeying the Lord. That's its nature; it is darkness. It only knows one thing: to bind you and bring you to destruction.

In 2 Timothy 1:7, the Apostle Paul said these beautiful words—⁷ **For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind** (emphasis added).

Every single person in this room will be confronted with fear. For some people fear is suffocating, and I mean that physically. They have anxiety attacks and cannot physically breathe. You can't even describe this dark power that comes upon them. When you are confronted with fear, this is not of God. You are dealing with spiritual hosts of wickedness. You are dealing with demonic powers.

God has not given us the spirit of fear; God has given us a spirit of power. Power for what? To overcome fear.

God has given us the spirit of love. This is what I know about love. In 1 Corinthians 13:8, the Apostle Paul told us, **love never fails**. Do you know he was talking about never failing God? Let that sink in for a moment. Love never fails God. In other words, it never fails to hold fast to the Word of the Lord, to His commandments, and to walk faithfully in Him. When you are in love, you will not fail him. That's why Yeshua said, **"If you love me, keep my commandments"** (John 14:5).

You must hold the line. Hold fast to His righteousness. Don't betray Him. Don't listen to the darkness. Don't listen to the fear. When you experience real fear knocking at your door, it's obnoxious. It speaks loudly to try to drown out the voice of God. The whole purpose of the attack is to take you away from the Lord, to take you away from His word, and to persuade you that you can't trust in the Lord. That's the very thing HaSatan did to Eve in the garden. He persuaded Eve that she couldn't trust the Word of the Lord. This is what fear does. It's absolutely demonic.

Isaiah 51:7a—The Lord said—^{7a} **Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people in whose heart is My law**. Who is the Lord talking to when He says, **"Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, who have the Torah in your heart"**, who are children of the New Covenant"? I will make this easy; He's talking to you, and He's crying out, **"Listen."** What does the Lord say we need to listen to?

Isaiah 51:7b—^{7b} **Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be afraid of their insults** (emphasis added).

Why do we have to worry about that? Why is He specifically addressing His children, the ones who follow Him, who confess Yeshua, and who are the righteousness of God? The Apostle Paul said this in 2 Timothy 3:12—¹² **Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus, Messiah Yeshua, will suffer persecution**. That's why. It's guaranteed that you will be confronted with fear. And the Lord is basically saying, **"Do not fear because it's going to knock on your door and try to bind you, take control of you (It's the ultimate controller), and lead you away from Me."** This is the power of this darkness. We get warning after warning.

In fact, Isaiah 59:15 says—¹⁵And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Prey to who? The kingdom of darkness. You better believe darkness will attempt to intimidate you, insult you, persecute you, and to take you away from the Lord. This darkness is very possessive.

In light of looking at this, I want to share a little news report with you. I will show you the video of it. Did you hear what happened this week? This week something huge took place in D.C. It was a court case. A verdict was rendered. They found five anti-abortion activists all guilty on all accounts. They face up to 10 years in prison and an extra year for breaking the FACE Act. On top of that, it was about \$350,000 in fines and damages. I want to share this with you. This will help put what we are talking about into perspective.

LifeSite Video:

Reporter: Well, friends, I think it's safe to say that every one of us who just witnessed what happened inside the U.S District Court here in Washington D.C. is in a state of shock. All five defendants have been found guilty on both charges: the conspiracy charge and the FACE violation charge. Now, underneath that FACE violation charge, there are two elements, one is force, the other is obstruction. And because of that, the government came back and said, "Well, force is violence. Therefore, these are violent criminals." The judge kind of threw her hands up in the air and said, "Look! I have no discretion in the matter here," almost indicating that she would not have elected to send them to jail. But all five of them were just arrested. They actually took Will Goodman off in handcuffs. The others were just escorted out the door by the marshals. Nobody expected this to happen.

Reporter: Just moments ago, I spoke to Lauren Handy's attorney, Stephen Crampton, and Heather Idoni's attorney, Robert Dunn. Steve, your reaction just in general.

Stephen Crampton: The verdict itself didn't really surprise us, in the sense, that what this jury had before it was a very narrow and constrained, we believe unfairly so, evidentiary record. We think the last word is far from spoken in this case. We intend to vigorously prosecute and appeal on numerous issues. I want to say too, Jim, that in our view Lauren's real offense was not going inside that abortion clinic. It was her refusal to be silent in the face of ongoing and pervasive evil. And if they think that incarcerating her is going to silence her, I think they've got another thing coming. Lauren is a fighter for the most innocent and helpless among us, and Thomas More Society intends to vigorously fight for her as well.

Reporter: What about the decision to send them all to jail, calling them violent criminals.

Stephen Crampton: That was the shock. I think the judge was a bit taken aback. Certainly, the government appeared to be taken aback, and certainly we were. I think it's a travesty. I think the entire kind of tenuous manner in which we reach this conclusion that they were somehow violent is preposterous. The one thing that we emphasized in this case, what they agreed on, was non-violence. The real violence, as we all know, is what happens inside that clinic to the babies every single day. So, to accuse Lauren and the other gentle activists here of violence is really ludicrous. End of LifeSite video

Daniel Speaking:

I want to follow up with an article that was written about this:

Life Site News by Ashley Sadler—"Make no mistake the incredible injustice of the federal court today is **unprecedented in the history of the pro-life movement,**" said Monica Miller, director of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, in an emailed press statement to LifeSiteNews on Tuesday. I was in court observing this trial for seven days. I watched video after video of this rescue—and these pro-lifers never engaged in any violence on any level," Miller said. "Indeed, they were subjected to violence from the Washington Surgi-Clinic staff—shoved, pushed, and beaten with a broomstick. (Emphasis added)

I can't get up here and say, "Hey, guys, persecution is coming," because it's already here. Bakers are being drug into court because they are holding the line for their conviction of morality, according to the word of the Lord, and will not bend the knee to the LGBTQ agenda. Florists are losing their business because they are not bending the knee to this LGBTQ agenda. They have biblical conviction and are holding the line, walking in faith, and not giving in to the fear and intimidation. Many of you may have heard of the football coach being fired because he had the audacity to pray. There are many amazing examples of Christians holding the line today.

This progressive culture has become so viciously intolerant. They hate you because you believe in Jesus, in His Word, and in His truth. You have made the Lord your light and your salvation, and that is unacceptable to darkness, so persecution, fear, and intimidation come in.

When Roe v Wade was overturned, man, did the pregnancy centers pay the price, and the threats came! This is a picture of the Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center in Lynchburg, Virginia, with graffiti painted on its floor that says, "If abortion ain't safe, you ain't safe."



As we look at Isaiah, the Lord says to the people that hold the line, love the Lord and His righteousness, keep His commandments, and deal with intimidation and hatred, "**Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be afraid of their insults.**" (Isaiah 51:7).

Right now, we see the spirit of antichrist vomiting his agenda all over this country. There is no way you will walk in this generation without being hated if you cling to the Word of God. Yeshua said, "**You will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.**" (Matthew 10:22). We are called to endure and to reject the fear, the intimidation, the persecution, and even the threats of death. You are to completely reject it, hold fast to the Word, and make **the Lord your light and your salvation.**

Luke 14:28-29—²⁸ "**For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it--** ²⁹ "**lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him.**

Yeshua said that when you make the decision to pick up your cross and follow Him, you must forsake all you have to become His disciple. You become a living sacrifice. Count the cost. If there is anything you need to allow to soak in, it is this. You are in a generation where you better count the cost of your faith. It will cost you everything. Pure and simple.

1 Peter 3:14—The Apostle Peter said—¹⁴ **But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."** (Emphasis added).

We need to remember if we suffer for righteousness' sake, we are blessed in the eyes of the Lord. And that's all that matters!

Matthew 5:10-12—¹⁰ **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** ¹¹ **Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.** ¹² **"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

The disciples understood this. The apostles experienced this. They were beaten and persecuted, and not simply with words. They departed after being beaten by the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name** (Acts 5:41).

You better have that mentality now. You lock it down right now. Reserve this in your heart and say, "I want the blessing," so when fear comes knocking at your door, you do not bend the knee to fear or to compromise.

I want to show you just how destructive and how persuasive this dark power of fear really is. In 1 Samuel, there is a story that brings this to light, and ironically enough, it's about David's predecessor, King Saul. The backdrop of the story is that the Philistines have a massive army, and they are coming against Israel. We will pick up the story in 1 Samuel 13:6—⁶ **When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), —meaning they are terrified—then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits** (emphasis added).

For clarity's sake, I want to make sure you understand something about this text. I've highlighted "the men of Israel." Some of you might think it's talking about the assembly of Israel, the men, women, and children, and they are the ones scattering. When it says, "caves, thickets, rocks, holes, and pits," the writer is saying, "Israel was going anywhere they could hide." This is true terror. This is true fear.

But the men of Israel are not the assembly of Israel. It's the army of Israel that ran for their lives. Do you know what percentage of this army fled? Eighty percent of the army of Israel ran for their lives, and only 20 percent stayed. Think about that. Why did 80 percent of Israel run for its life?

Well, you need to appreciate this. The number of the Israeli army mustered in was 3,000 men, and 2,400 men abandoned ship. The Philistine army consisted of 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and regarding foot soldiers, the text says they were as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude. There might have been 50-100,000 Philistines that mustered against the little 3,000 men of Israel.

Oh, it gets crazier. The men of Israel had no weapons, swords, or spears because the Philistines had an anti-gun law; they did not allow Israel to have weapons. That was the ancient version of destroying the Second Amendment. The Philistines didn't want Israel to be able to defend itself. It's the essence of slavery, right? So, the men of Israel had farm equipment. They had plowshares, pitchforks, and sickles. So, here they are without a sword, spear, or shield, and the Philistines, innumerable as the sand the seashore, are armed to the teeth. So, the men of Israel looked at this, ran for their lives, and hid anywhere they could.

1 Samuel 13:7—⁷ And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

When it says, “all the people,” that's the 600 men that were left that didn't even have weapons or armor and were walking around with farm equipment. This is what Saul had. They were terrified, shaking in their boots. Fear was blanketing the situation.

1 Samuel 13:8a—^{8a} Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel.

I want to stop right here because we need a little more backdrop. If you go to 1 Samuel 10, you will discover that Samuel, and it wasn't Samuel, but it was the Lord. The Lord commanded Saul not to do anything until Samuel got there. Samuel told Saul—⁸ “. . . I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do.” (1 Samuel 10:8)

1 Samuel 13:8—⁸ Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

So, get this; this was the situation. Samuel was not there. The Philistines had amassed a huge army and were ready to wipe Israel off the map. Almost the whole army of Israel had fled. Saul was terrified out of his mind.

1 Samuel 13:9—⁹ So Saul said, “Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.” And he offered the burnt offering.

He offered the burnt offering, but he was commanded not to do anything. This was the commandment of the Lord, not the commandment of Samuel. In any other context, you would think this was a beautiful thing to offer peace offerings to honor the Lord. Not in this context; the commandment of the Lord had been stated.

1 Samuel 13:10—¹⁰ Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, **that Samuel came**; —Well, get this. Samuel did come in the appointed time. It was just after Saul made a huge mistake— **and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.** (Emphasis added).

1 Samuel 13:11a—^{11a} And Samuel said, “**What have you done?**” To really feel the weight of that, search the Bible, and you will find when the Lord says, “What have you done?”, it's not good. These were the very words the Lord spoke to Eve after she sinned and to Cain after he sinned.

1 Samuel 13:11b—^{11b} Saul said, “When I saw the people were scattered from me, and you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash....

Saul explained why it made sense for him to do this. He wanted Samuel to look at his situation and see how dire it was.

1 Samuel 13:12—¹² “then I said, ‘the Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.’ **Therefore I felt compelled**, and offered a burnt offering.” (Emphasis added).

What was so compelling? Fear. What drove Saul away from the love of God and the obedience to His commandment? It was explicitly fear. Satan leverages fear against us to get us to walk away from the commandments of God. Fear is a horrifying and persuasive power. Let's be honest, what Saul looked at with his eyes of flesh could not have been worse, and the really scary part is that fear convinced Saul that what he did was right.

Do you understand how diabolically evil this is? When you cater to your fear, guess what? Every step of the way you are justifying your actions. You are walking away from the Lord, and the devil loves it.

As we continue, we will see the impact. 1 Samuel 13:13a—^{13a} **And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly.** When you don't listen to God, you are walking in foolishness. When you cater to fear, you are walking in foolishness.

1 Samuel 13:13b—^{13b} **You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.**

That is the expectation of obedience, which is to be established forever. Saul, giving into fear, cost him everything. So, I say to you, you better count the cost. Count the cost of letting fear come in, bind you, control you, and lead you away from the will and the Word of the Living God.

1 Samuel 13:14—¹⁴ **“But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself—what—a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”** (Emphasis added)

And who be that? That be David. The very one that said, **“The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom Shall I Fear?”** That's David's heart. This is the heart the Lord is looking for in every single person.

Psalms 3:6—I love what David said—⁶ **I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around** (emphasis added). What David expressed here was the very horrible dire situation Saul was in. It looked like Israel would be wiped off the map. The army had totally abandoned ship. Saul was left with a few hundred men with farm equipment as weapons.

Yet, how did David speak? He said, **“I will not be afraid.”** When he said, **“The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom Shall I Fear?”** he meant, “I will not be moved. I'm not going to be taken back by fear. I won't be led and bound. I will hold fast to the Lord.”

Psalms 16:8—David said—⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.** David is going to hold the line. He will walk with the Lord. I don't think that David never experienced fear because David experienced every bit of the fear that Saul felt that day. I want to prove this by going to Psalms 55:2-3—² **Attend to me, and hear me; I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily—why—³ Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked; for they bring down trouble upon me, and in wrath they hate me** (emphasis added).

David was hearing the voice of the enemy. The words of the enemy were coming in like arrows, weapons of war, to sow doubt, unbelief, fear, and to destroy his faith in his God. The whole point of the enemy whispering in your ear through the spirit of fear is to convince you that if you stay the course, bad things will happen to you. He whispers, “You can't do that. You can't stay within the parameters of the Word of God. You have to step back.”

There were a lot of pastors that on the front end, before the progressives totally got into the church, took a back seat and didn't want to talk about the hot issues of abortion and the LGBTQ agenda. They didn't want to offend. That was all promulgated by fear. The whole basis of their standpoint was fear, rather than saying, "I will not fear. I will trust in the Lord. I will hold the line and speak the truth. I will care for the sheep."

David was a shepherd. He shepherded the sheep. Peter was a shepherd. He fed the sheep. Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter said, "Yes, Lord." Jesus said, "Feed My sheep, feed My lambs, tend My sheep." (John 21:15-17). This is what shepherds are called to do. They are not called to instill fear. Silence on these hot issues is doing just that. It is sowing fear in your community.

So, David dealt with the voice of the enemy. Then we read this going back to Psalm 3:2—² **Many are they who say of me, "there is no help for him in God."** (Emphasis added).

This verse helps you understand what David was dealing with. What did the enemy tell him? The enemy told him, "There's no help for you in your current situation. If you stay faithful to the Lord, stay within the confines of the Word, and stand on the Word, there won't be any help for you in God." This was the voice of the enemy.

Psalm 55:4-5—David continued—⁴ **My heart is severely pained within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.** —Does it sound like David's not dealing with fear? He's dealing with a boatload of it—⁵ **Fearfulness and trembling, have come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me** (emphasis added). He was overwhelmed by the fear and the anxiety that came upon him. So, this is not a situation where David doesn't feel fear. He felt all the fear that Saul felt. The difference between Saul and David was David didn't give into it. It didn't control him. He didn't allow fear to get hooks in him and lead his next step. Instead, David responded to this with the following:

Psalm 55:16—¹⁶ **As for me, I will call upon God, and the LORD shall save me.**

Psalm 56:3—³ **Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you** (*yōwm 'îrā 'ānî 'êlekā 'eḇtāḥ*). Do you know what that means? Go to Proverbs 3:5-6—⁵ **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;** ⁶ **In all your ways acknowledge Him,** —in everything you are dealing with—and **He shall direct your paths.**

Not fear. We are not called to be led by the spirit of fear.

I think of Israel in the wilderness. God sent 12 spies to spy out the land. When they returned, they had in their hands absolute evidence that what God said was true. This is what's mind-blowing. It's like you are in a court case, and they just brought evidence. God said—"I will bring you to a land flowing with milk and honey." (Exodus 3:8). The 12 spies returned and said—"We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit." (Numbers 13:27). As proof, they had brought back grapes, pomegranates, and figs. They said, "What God said was true."

But ten of the spies said they saw fortified cities and giants in the land. They said that they would be slaughtered and have no chance of taking the land. What moved these ten spies to say that? Fear. That entire generation was taken out because of fear. They never took the land because they gave in to fear.

The worst part is when these ten spies spoke that fear, they infected the whole generation. Over 600,000 men fell in that wilderness and never saw the Promised Land because of fear.

We ought to learn a lesson today. I kid you not, this is as scriptural as I know how to convey it. If you give in to this demonic fear, you will never take the land; you will never see the kingdom of God. Your end will be like Saul's end. Your end will be like the end of these men who rebelled against the Word of God. That's why God didn't bring them in. They rebelled against His word. They didn't have faith and trust in Him. The fear spoke louder than the Word.

That puts things for me into a radically different perspective of how intentional I have to be regarding serving Yeshua, walking with Him, following Him, and holding the line. When fear comes knocking at my door, even though I'll feel every bit of the terror and experience that fear, in that moment, I will say, "No." I will turn and trust in the Lord. Do you know why? Because I counted the cost, and if it costs my life in this age, so be it because the Lord's already promised eternal life to those who follow Him.

Here is some practical help found in Deuteronomy 7:17—¹⁷ **"If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?'**—

Moses gave Israel incredible wisdom here. He helped them and will help us today because he already knows there will be giants in the land and fortified cities. He knows it is coming. What is Moses's expert advice? Deuteronomy 7:18a—^{18a} **"you shall not be afraid of them.**

This was the first thing he said. Moses knew you would come up against things that in your own eyes would look impossible and hopeless. But we are called to **walk by faith, not by sight** (2 Corinthians 5:7). You need to take home today what Moses said next. You should immediately implement this into your life because this is how you will war against fear. This is so powerful.

Deuteronomy 7:18b—Moses continued—^{18b} **but you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt:** (emphasis added).

Do you want to know the secret to actually do what David did? If you don't want to be afraid and let fear control you, then you need to call to mind the power of God and what He has done. This means you will have to open up the Word and seek His display of power. It's everywhere, from Genesis to Revelation. You will be inundated and overwhelmed with the power, the glory, the mercy, the grace, and the faithfulness of God.

Think about God taking this nation out of another nation. They were unarmed slaves with no power to get out from bondage, but then the Lord sent the Lamb. And by the blood of the Lamb, they were released from bondage. When they reached the Red Sea, God supernaturally parted the sea. God brought them into the wilderness and gave them bread to eat that fell from heaven. They drank water that God caused to flow out of a rock.

We are supposed take these things in because that's where our strength comes from. **Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God** (Romans 10:17). To have the faith and strength David displayed when he said, **"The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?"**, you will have to remember what the Lord did.

You will need to read the New Testament and mediate on what Yeshua did. His entire ministry was one of power, deliverance, faithfulness, mercy, and grace, over and over again. If you do not fill your heart with these things, you will not have the power and faith to fight. This is a strategy. These are practical tools for us as believers to immediately implement. We should meditate day and night and talk about the things that God has done. It's the mighty deliverance of the Most High God. It becomes real. It becomes tangible in your heart, so when you are up against a very terrifying situation, you don't do what Saul did. You don't hesitate, but you push forward.

Psalm 78:37—³⁷ **For their heart was not steadfast with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant.** This is talking about the Israelites experience in the wilderness.

Psalm 78:41-42—⁴¹ **Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.** ⁴² **They did not remember his power: the day when He redeemed them from the enemy** (emphasis added).

That is the problem. Do you understand why Israel didn't go into the Promised Land? They gave into the fear because they were not equipped to fight that fear. Joshua and Caleb were equipped because they remembered His power. They believed His word and His promises. It was in their heart, but all the rest of the men did not remember; they forgot.

If you forget God, you will be forgotten, and that is a reality.

I want to close with this passage in Revelation 21. Listen to this carefully. Revelation 21:8—⁸ **“But the cowardly, —in the Greek, it's the fearful; those who are given to fear— unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”** (Emphasis added).

If you don't figure this out, push fear out of your life, and get that hook out of your jaw as it drags you around, putting you in bondage, and guiding your next steps, remember that cowards do not make it into the kingdom of heaven.

In this generation, you will be tested to find out whether you are a coward and fear controls you and speaks louder than anything.

I want to close here. As we get into our part two of this series, we will pick it up right here and continue. Thank you.