

## PSALM 27

## LIGHT AND SALVATION!

Having been taught and exercised by such great afflictions, by so many perils and sorrows, and by such fiery conflicts for the Word's sake; and having been supported therein against the devil and the world – David, in this Psalm, now finds a greater truth and reliance upon God; and he is more encouraged and fortified against all his enemies. “The Lord,” says he, “is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” In other words, the Lord has so often comforted me when I have been under various darkneses and storms of temptations, and He has so powerfully delivered me from them, that surely He will not leave me nor forsake me in the future! Since God is on my side, who can be against me? Since He upholds me, what power or violence of the enemy can cast me down or destroy me? “I will not fear thousands of enemies,” says the Psalmist, “though they should raise up war against me.” All that he was anxious about was one thing: that he might remain and dwell in the house of the Lord – that is, in His Church, where the Word of God is purely and sincerely taught and learned (verse 4). Surely, if we hold this jewel in our possession, we are rich indeed! The gracious presence of God, His power, His promises, His readiness to hear prayer, and the witness of His Spirit in the hearts of His people – these are the secret places of His tabernacle (verse 5); and in these things, the saints find reason for that holy security and peace of mind, in which they dwell at ease. If we are rooted deeply in the Word and ordinances of God, no terrors – however great they may be – can destroy our light and our life, or our sure and eternal consolation. We, as the Lord's children, desire to dwell in our Father's house – not to merely sojourn there, like a wayfaring man, who tarries only for a night; and not to dwell there only for a short time, as a servant who does not abide in the house forever.

**Overview of the Psalm, adapted from Charles Spurgeon:**

Nothing whatsoever can be drawn from the title, as to the time when this Psalm was written; for the heading, “A Psalm of David,” is common to so many of the Psalms. But if one may judge from the matter of the song, the writer was pursued by enemies (verses 2-3), he was shut out from the house of the Lord (verse 4), he was taking a last parting from father and mother (verse 10), and he was subject to slander (verse 12) – and do not all of these things meet in the time when Doeg the Edomite spoke against David to Saul?

This is a song of cheerful hope – well fitted for those who are in times of trial, who have learned to lean upon the Almighty arm. The Psalm may be read with profit in a threefold way as the language of David, of the Church, and of the Lord Jesus. The plenitude of Scripture will thus appear even more wonderful.

The poet first sounds forth his sure confidence in his God (verse 1), and his love of communion with Him (verse 4). He then takes himself to prayer (verse 7); and he concludes with an acknowledgment of the sustaining power of faith in his own case, and an exhortation to others to follow his example.

Rather, we long to dwell there all the days of our life, as sons and daughters with their father and mother. But if we hope that the praising of God will be the blessedness of our eternity, then surely we ought to also make it the business of our time here on earth! The Christian considers the favor and service of God as the “one thing needful.” This he desires, prays for, and seeks after; and in it, he rejoices.

Wherever the believer may be, he can find a way to the throne of grace by prayer (verses 7-14). In fact, He calls us to seek Him! He calls us by His Holy Spirit, by His Word, by His worship, and by special Providences – both merciful and afflicting. When we are foolishly resorting to the lying vanities of this earth so that we might find help from them, the Lord God lovingly calls to us and encourages us to seek for mercy and comfort in Him alone! The call is general: “Seek ye my face.” But we must apply it to ourselves and say – like David – “I will seek it!” The invitation does us no good when we do not personally accept the exhortation; a gracious heart readily answers the call of a gracious God, being made willing to do so by His Holy Spirit.

The Psalmist requests the favor of the Lord, the continuance of His presence with him, the value of His Divine guidance, and the benefit of His powerful protection. God’s time to help those who trust in Him is when all other helpers fail. He is a surer and better Friend than even our earthly parents can be. What was the belief which supported the Psalmist? The assurance that he would indeed see the goodness of the Lord! There is nothing like the believing hope of everlasting life, the foresights of that glory, and the foretastes of those pleasures, to keep us from fainting under all calamities. In the meantime, David knew that he would be strengthened to bear up under his burdens. Let us look unto the suffering Savior and pray to Him in faith, and let us encourage each other to wait on the Lord with patient expectation and fervent prayer!

*Lord God, we acknowledge the fact that by nature, we are lost and in darkness; but we beseech Jesus to be our Light and our Salvation, to redeem us from our sins and iniquities. We thank You that we are able to derive all the blessedness which faith can derive from the many delightful encouragements which are held forth in this precious Psalm, from an increasing dependence upon our glorious Redeemer, and from drawing near His throne of grace to plead for every blessing that He alone bestows! Amen.*

