

## Psalm 27

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**When the Lord is our singular defense and desire, we ought to be more content to be “alone” in the battles of our lives than in the worship of God. His Word teaches a preference of public worship over private both for delighting in Him and for being directed by Him.**

A Psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the strength of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When the wicked came against me

To eat up my flesh,

My enemies and foes,

They stumbled and fell.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army may encamp against me,

My heart shall not fear;

Though war may rise against me,

In this I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> One thing I have desired of the LORD,

That will I 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 inquire in His temple.

<sup>5</sup> For in the time of trouble

He shall hide me in His pavilion;

In the secret place of His tabernacle

He shall hide me;

He shall set me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me;  
Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle;  
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice!  
Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> When You said, “Seek My face,”  
My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide Your face from me;  
Do not turn Your servant away in anger;

You have been my help;  
Do not leave me nor forsake me,  
O God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> When my father and my mother forsake me,  
Then the LORD will take care of me.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me Your way, O LORD,  
And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.

<sup>12</sup> Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries;  
For false witnesses have risen against me,  
And such as breathe out violence.

<sup>13</sup> I would have lost heart, unless I had believed  
That I would see the goodness of the LORD  
In the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD;  
Be of good courage,  
And He shall strengthen your heart;  
Wait, I say, on the LORD!

**Content to be alone in war, v1–3.** If Yahweh is your light and salvation, even if you are otherwise by yourself, you need not fear (v1) even an army (v3a–b) or a coalition of armies such as in a war (v3c–d). But one with Yahweh is always a majority; attacking a God-protected man is fatal. The Lord proved Himself with David (v2), and has especially done so with Christ; He will not fail you. Even if everything else around him is darkness, Yahweh is the saint’s light!

**Not content to be alone in worship, v4–6.** It is true that the Lord has made the creation to declare His glory (cf. 19:1–4), but His house is the place where Yahweh especially displays His beauty (v4e). So the same David who can face war by himself wants to worship with the people of God in God’s house (v4c)/temple (v4f)/hut (v5b)/tabernacle (v5c)/tabernacle (v6b). He piles up the words to emphasize the intensity of his desire for public worship! He desires it more than all other things taken together: “one thing I have desired”!

This worship is the place where David would especially get to behold the Lord’s beauty (v4e), to inquire diligently (v4f), to offer up a joyful heart to the Lord (v6c), to sing the Lord’s praises (v6d), and to offer up prayers (v7a).

**But the Lord’s speaking is the most important one there, v7–10.** Though corporate worship is especially the place to offer this worship, and the godly in the land are a delight to us (cf. Ps 16:3), it is because they belong to the Lord Who is our pleasant inheritance (cf. Ps 16:5–6) and in whose presence is fullness of joy and everlasting pleasure (cf. Ps 16:11).

So the best command ever is v8a’s “Seek My face.” And in the elect it produces the ready response of an eager heart, v8b’s “Your face, Yahweh, I will seek!” The most horrible possibility—that the Lord would forsake him (v9)—is actually an impossibility (v10).

**And the Lord’s speaking is the most important speech there, v11–13.** How does Yahweh take care of His saint (v10b)? Especially by teaching him (v11a) and leading him (v11b). David’s being saved out of this (v12) and all other troubles comes along the smooth path that ends in resurrection (v13c) and everlasting worship (v13b). And it is believing this that most heartens him (v13a). Especially when others are falsely accusing us (v12b), let us be mastered by the Lord’s Word so that their accusations will have no merit. The “highway of holiness” is the safe route to heaven.

**What David has personally experienced, he prophetically urges each of us to personally experience, v14.** Now that he has shown the way by which the Lord strengthens a believer’s heart (v14c), he urges us to wait upon Yahweh (v14a,d) and be encouraged (v14b). The verbs are in the singular, emphasizing how each one of us must take this charge personally for ourself.

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

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Audio file

210818pm\_psa027.mp3

Transcript

Our gracious God and our Heavenly Father.

We thank you and praise you for your almighty power.

We thank you even for the display of it in the.

Shaking and rattling of the Thunder.

The pouring out of the rain.

We thank you for your mercy and the knowledge.

That the rain comes not to destroy this world.

As it and we so richly deserve.

We thank you that the rain instead reminds us that you send it forth for good and that you send your word forth for good.

That we have no doubt about whether or not the grass will grow.

When the rain comes.

And we pray that you would make us as confident that we will grow.

As your word comes.

Grant O God, the powerful working of your spirit.

Now as we read and meditate upon your word before you.

Grant that he would use it to give life to give growth to our souls.

Grant that we would be glad in Christ.

That his ruling and raining would come down upon us like showers on the freshly mown grass.

That his reign in our hearts would be reflected by the confidence that we have in his everlasting reign.

In a new heaven and a new earth.

Oh bless your name.

Oh God, for the confidence that the gospel gives us.

We confess before you that we do not exercise or enjoy that confidence as we ought, but we're grateful for your patience.

We're grateful for your grace.

As your gracious and patient with unbelieving Moses.

Next is chapter four.

We pray that you would continue extending that grace to us tonight and stir.

Up our faith.

Help us now as we come.

Before you in your word and use even the study and the reflection and your spirits work by your word to warm up our hearts and focus our minds.

For calling upon your name together in prayer.

That we might be the better enabled to pray well because of what you do to us and in us and for us now for we ask it in Jesus name.

Psalm 27, a Psalm of David.

Yahei is my light and my salvation.

Whom shall I fear?

Yahweh is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and my foes, they stumbled and fell.

Though an army may camp against me.

My heart shall not fear.

The war may rise against me.

In this I will be confident.

One thing I have desired of Yahweh that will I seek that I may dwell in the House of Yahweh all the days of my life.

To behold the beauty of Yahweh, and to inquire in his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion, in the secret place of his Tabernacle.

He shall hide me.

He shall set me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in his Tabernacle.

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to Yahweh.

Hear ya.

When I cry with my voice.

Have mercy also upon me and answer me.

When you said seek my face my heart said to you your face Yahoo.

I will seek do not hide your face from me do not turn your servant away in anger you have been my help do not leave me nor forsake me.

O God of my salvation.

When my father and my mother forsake me, then y'all they will take care of me.

Teach me your way to Yahweh, and lead me in a smooth path because of my enemies.

Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries for false witnesses have risen against me and such as breathe out violence.

I would have lost heart unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of Yahweh in the land of the living.

Wait on your way.

Be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart.

Wait, I say.

On Yahoo.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inerrant word.

The situation obviously is that David is in distress.

The number of those who are his enemies and who are falsely accusing him.

We see as a big part of what's going on in verse 12.

But the number of his enemies apparently is very great, and it appears that he is all by himself.

And so in his response to this situation, first he calls upon the Lord, because he's not actually by himself, is he?

And so verses one through three he's content to be alone, even in battle, even when he's under attack.

But verses 4 through 6.

The thing he doesn't want to be alone, and he's it's OK with him so long as he has the Lord that he would be alone in war.

But it is not OK or satisfying to him.

He's not content.

To be alone in worship.

For fighting the enemy.

Just him and the Lord.

That's fine for worshipping God.

He wishes to worship in the congregation.

He wishes for corporate worship because that is where God makes greatest display of his, his beauty and his goodness.

And then he.

Moves from desiring the corporate.

Worship too.

Desiring, especially in the corporate worship, to personally interact with God. If you're looking at your outline, I just noticed a typo. The third heading should be, but the Lord's face.

Is the most important one there?

It's the Lord, especially, even though he's desiring corporate worship so much.

But in verses seven through 10.

He desires the corporate worship so that he may interact personally with the Lord and most of all that the Lord would teach him and lead him in. In the context of that worship, the preaching of God's word and.

The Lord bringing home his word to David's heart, being that which he desires most in his personal interaction with God. In the corporate worship. Then we'll see that in verses 11 through 13.

And then having described that as his desire in the midst of his distress, this desire to be in the corporate worship so that he can have.

That that experience of the Lord, that the Lord reserves for corporate worship or especially gives via corporate worship, and ultimately most of all through preaching.

Having described that for himself, he then turns to us and he addresses each of us individually.

It's the second person singular in verse 14 and says that this is an example to us that what David has personally experienced.

Each of us ought to.

Personal experience.

So having kind of seen the the the.

Shape of the Psalm as a whole.

The teaching, the overall teaching of the Psalm.

Let's go back and see some more specifics in each of these.

In each of these sections, first he's content to be alone.

He even in the under attack from his enemies a Psalm of David.

Yahoo is my light.

In my salvation, whom shall I fear?

You always the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

Notice the the first person singular, but his enemies are not singular.

When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies, and hers, they stumbled and fell.

And notice how many now, though an army may encamp against me.

An army many me one my one heart shall not fear.

Though war may rise against me, and here it wouldn't just be an army that is equipped and encamped and ready to attack.

The idea is multiple armies.

Now there would be ordinarily.

A coalition.

In this war, but even though war may rise against me, he says, and this I will be confident.

So the idea is, if Yahweh is your light and salvation, even if you are otherwise by yourself, you need not fear even an army or a coalition of armies, because one with the Lord is always in the majority.

Notice what he says in verse two, he says.

I've seen this before.

Wicked, the wicked have come against me before and they didn't come against him lightly or easily.

They came to devour my flesh.

Yet it is a fatal mistake to attack a God protected man, says one of many reasons why you ought to be careful in how you think of and act toward those who are believers because the Lord is with them.

And if you attack a believer that is a fatal mistake.

Think so.

The Lord has proved himself with David in the past.

Verse two, he reminds himself of an occasion in which the Lord has delivered him and he takes strength from from that memory.

And we of course can look at David's many deliverance is Joseph Deliverance. Daniels and his three friends.

Deliverance, the deliverance of God.

People throughout the scriptures, especially the Lord Jesus, rising again from the dead and all the powers of Satan and all the demons of hell.

Unable to defeat the Lord Jesus Christ, and we too can say the Lord has proved himself.

We can say God has done more difficult things before.

He will not fail you.

Having done that over and over and over again, indeed, although it appears that all around him is darkness, he says Yahweh is my light.

And my salvation.

Perhaps you have been in a situation where it was extremely dark and you didn't have a flashlight or you'd forgotten one or the flashlight you had was out of batteries or too dim.

Not so in life with the Lord.

When the Lord is your light, your light is always with you, and your light is always bright enough.

And so he is content to be alone in war, but he is not content to be alone in worship.

One thing I have desired of Yahweh that I will seek that I may dwell in the House of Yahweh all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of y'all, and to inquire in his temple, for in the time of trouble.

You shall hide me in his pavilion and some.

Translations will say Tabernacle there, although it's a different word than the one that appears in the next line and then again in verse 6.

This word has its its root in the word for curtain.

It may be referring to the Holy of Holies if it's specific to that Tabernacle.

May be referring to a dwelling place that isn't a house.

Yes, a Hut with a fabric door would have been described by this word.

But you see the House of Yahweh verse four and the temple of the Lord verse four, and his pavilion or or hot, whatever that is in verse five and Tabernacle, and the next line, and then Tabernacle again in verse 6.

It's true that the Lord has made the creation to declare his glory.

But when David wants to behold the beauty of Yahweh, even though he can always look at the heavens which declare the glory of God, the Lord especially displays his beauty in his word and in corporate worship.

With his people, when those whom he is redeeming by the blood of Christ, are gathered to him, and those whom he has redeemed.

Beamed by the blood of Christ are gathered to him, then the glory of our good and gracious God is most displayed in the assembly.

There's something in the gathering of the Saints that you can't have anywhere else, and so David says, one thing I've desired of Yahweh and that will I seek, and he uses all of this.

Language about the gathering.

Of the Lord's people together, it's not that he doesn't desire anything else from the Lord, it's that everything else put together is not as good as being gathered to God.

In the Assembly of the redeemed and beholding that display, that particular display of God's goodness and God's glory that is.

Even the public worship of God.

And so we see that the Lord has always prioritized public worship.

For for his people, David has piled up this desire.

The language about the corporate Ness of the worship to indicate the intensity of this one desire that he has.

And you can see sprinkled.

Throughout those words, the different parts of public worship things that we still get to do to behold the Lord's beauty.

A fifth line of verse four to inquire diligently.

Sixth line of verse four.

It says inquire, but it's the language that you would use a really careful, earnest investigation.

It's not just.

You know, asking a question that we that we go to with this earnest desire to find out from God what he is like and what he has for us.

To offer up a joyful heart to the Lord, the third line of verse six.

Therefore, I will offer sacrifices of joy in his Tabernacle.

The word that's translated joy there is translated elsewhere.

In the in the Psalms a joyful.

Always there were still blood sacrifices at this time, but that which David was most looking forward to offering his sacrifice was his joy as expressed in the way that he would use his voice.

And you can see that in the next line.

Especially, I will sing.

Yes, I will sing.

Praises to Yahweh.

And then also to offer a prayer in the corporate worship first line of her seven hero Yahweh when I cry with my voice, so he wants to participate in the elements or the actions of corporate worship.

And he wants especially for it to be that public.

Corporate worship that that he would get to participate in, but even in public worship, and this is something important for each of us as we come.

Lords dead by Lords Day to the public worship of God.

It is important to interact with the Lord personally.

And it's very individual in the rest of of.

Verse seven through verse 10 have mercy also upon me, and answer me when you said seek my face my heart said to you, your face, Yahweh, I will seek.

And then he turns around and he cries out that the Lord wouldn't hide his face.

And then in verse 9 but immediately answers that even if his father and his mother were to forsake him, Yahweh would never.

Forsake him.

Yahweh will take care of me.

Verse 10.

So even though corporate worship is especially the place to know God as he's been describing in verses 4 through 6 and the godly in the land with whom you worship, the Saints are a delight.

To us you remember Psalm 16.

Verse 3 the reason that the Saints are a delight is because they belong to the Lord.

He is the pleasant inheritance.

He is the one in his presence is fullness.

He is the one at whose right hand is pleasure forevermore.

So even when we come into the the public worship of God and we especially prized the public worship because it's there in the corporate assembly that he most displays himself and that we have our greatest opportunity to worship him and magnify his name.

But in the public assembly.

Each one of us ought to be dealing very personally, very individually, with God, even in all of the corporate action.

Notice that the goodness of God command when you said seek my face.

Seek my face as a command and it's a command that isn't just good, but it's powerful.

The command actually gives to our our otherwise sinful hearts.

Apart from grace, the the response, and so it's the the command of God seek my face.

In the first half of her fate that triggers the response of our heart.

Right?

Your face, y'all.

Hey I will.

See second half of verse 8.

Perhaps you are like the servant who, the Lord?

Is using to open his word this evening and you have times in your life where you are just not seeking his face?

And you're finding it hard to respond from the heart. Well, the Lord's word has in it the Lord's power, and so we can ask him to direct our hearts to command our hearts to see can he has in himself the grace for producing.

The response to seek his face when you said seek my face my heart said to you your face Yahoo.

I will seek he is the one that we come.

To the public worship to see.

But even though we are speaking, we're doing this inquiring and we're doing this joyful noising

We're doing the singing of phrases and we're doing this playing this earnest praying that he describes the first line of verse seven is crying out with my voice.

The most important.

Speech in the public worship is not our speech but God.

Speech and having quite out to God, that that he would smile upon him, that he would show his his face to him.

He turns now to the most important part of that public worship.

In verse 11.

Teach me your way, y'all.

Lead me in a smooth path because of my enemies.

How does you always take care of his St?

He he says at the end of verse 10, then Yahweh will take care of me.

The the great means by which the great way in which the Lord takes care of us is through giving us his word.

Teach me your way.

Oh y'all, lead me in a smooth path because of my enemies.

Dabing David being saved from the plans.

Of his enemies and the accusations of his enemies and the violence of his enemies.

Those are the three parts of verse 12 the will of my adversaries.

The plans of his enemies.

False witnesses have risen against me.

The accusations of his enemies, such as breathe out, violence, the the violence of his of his enemies.

So the way in which God will save David from those three things that we see in verse 12 is by teaching and leading him, making the Lords.

Learn path verse 11.

Plain to David and actually leading him in that path.

Second half of verse 11.

So when he says I would have lost heart last I had believed.

And actually if you look.

If you were to look at this in most copies of the new King James, you would see that whole first line.

I would have lost heart.

Is actually in italics and saying let unless I had believed that the Lord would teach me that the Lord would lead me, that that the Lord would lead me at last verse 13 to see his goodness in the land of the living.

So what he's saying is.

Unless I believed that by this teaching and by this leading along this path, that the end of that path where that path ends up is in the resurrection.

And beholding the goodness of the Lord forever and ever, that is to say that.

What God does in the preaching.

Is he teaches us and he leads us so that experience that we have of him in the public worship becomes a foretaste of that experience that we will have of him forever and ever in glory.

And you can even see that a bunch of times.

Recently we've referred to Hebrews Chapter 12 and how the Lord Jesus.

Blood already speaks better than the blood of Abel, and when we hear preaching and worship the Lord Jesus addresses us from heaven.

Because he's shaking the heavens and the earth that are not going to remain so that believers who hear his preaching by means.

Of him preaching his words to us and preserving us through that preaching, we will inherit a heaven and earth that do remain that are an everlasting inheritance. So you have something similar here in verses 11 through 13 in Psalm 27, David crying out.

To the Lord, that in the public worship the Lord would teach him.

The Lord would lead him, and David has confidence that that this teaching and leading that God gives us in the public worship is a means by which we are brought to the resurrection.

The land of the living in which our experience will be continually and perfectly.

Seeing the goodness of Yahweh.



Verse 13 be there.

So what he is the one thing that he desired from verse four is act is the actual thing that he is certain God is giving us.

Verse 13.

Being the marvelous blessing of preaching, that is God.

Powerful way not only of converting and sanctifying, but preserving us until at last we are glorified.

It's very important to him then that the false witnesses.

If risen against him, don't end up getting proved true. He wants to be mastered by God's word.

So that those accusations will have no merit.

He's more concerned with being holy.

Then he is.

With what his enemies are trying to accomplish in the moment, because holiness is that safe highway along which the Lord leads his people whom he has saved into heaven.

So having having described all of that, he now turns to us in verse 14 and he says, wait.

On Yahweh be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart.

Wait, I say on Yahoo and all of those commands are first person singular.

So David has been.

An example for us, a model for us throughout the film as an individual who personally deals with the living God in the way that's described in the Psalm.

And then he turns and he doesn't say all y'all wait on Yahoo, all y'all be of good courage and.

And he shall strengthen all y'all hearts all y'all.

Wait on y'all.

I know he turns to us and he uses singular verb.

He says you you personally you individually wait on the Lord.

You individually have your heart strengthened you individually he will comfort your heart, you individually, he says wait on the Lord.

He's shown the way by which the Lord strengthens us.

And comforts us, and he urges each and every one of us personally individually, to wait upon the Lord and be encouraged especially.

Really, in the public public worship of God, the verbs are in the singular, emphasizing how we need to take this personally for ourselves.

When the Lord is our singular defence and desire, we ought to be more content, to be alone in the battles of our lives.

Than we are in the worship of God.

We want the public worship.

His word teaches us a preference of public worship over private because there we may most biblically and most completely delight in him.

And be directed by him.