

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND SALVATION... I WILL WAIT ON HIM...

“The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1). These words were given to David and the men and women of God throughout the Bible, as well as to us

today. God continually encourages His people when confronted with, or they are asked by Him to do difficult things. We see this throughout the scriptures.

In Numbers 13:20, Moses declares to the 12 spies, *“...And be **ye of good courage**, and bring of the fruit of the land...”* as they are about to go into the Promised Land to “search it out” and see what was in the land that the Lord was giving to them. They were going into a foreign land and they did not know what to expect. God, through Moses, encourages them and tells them to bring back the “fruit of the land,” the fruit that is in the Promised Land. What this literally meant was that they did not need to worry for they would come back - unharmed.

Moses again speaks these words, this time to Joshua, on behalf of the Lord in Deuteronomy 31:6,7 and 31 as he passes the mantle of leadership to Joshua. Moses states to Joshua, *“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that goes with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”* He was encouraging Joshua to not be fearful, for God will be with him and that God will never leave him or forsake him.

We see that the Lord Himself declares these same words, three times, in Joshua 1:6,9 and 18 as Joshua now becomes the leader of God’s people. God speaks it forth three times, *“...be strong and of a good courage.”* Joshua is about to embark on a daunting task but God speaks to him three times in the same way to encourage Joshua on this very big assignment.

These words are used many times to encourage God’s leadership to go forward, even if they thought that they were not ready to go forward. We see David saying these same words to Solomon in 1Chronicles 28:20 as he encourages Solomon who was now made to lead and rule Israel in David’s place, *“...Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.”*

In the Psalms we read these same words again. However, in the Psalms we hear these words being declared for all God's people to hear, receive and walk in them. In Psalm 27:14 it tells us, "*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*" Yes, God encourages, not just the leadership, but rather now all of His people to be "*strong and of a good courage.*" David declared this as his final thought in this Psalm. That means that we must look at this Psalm from the beginning. So, let's do that.

When we read Psalm 27:14, we must read it within the context of the entire Psalm. Psalm 27 starts off with verse one, "*The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?*" What do we hear David telling the listener? And the listener, who would then worship and speak this out, what then would he/she actually be declaring? Well, let's see...

The first thing we read is that, "*The LORD is my light...*" We must understand the fact that when we read this in the King James Version we see that every letter of the word "LORD" is capitalized. We see this throughout the scriptures. In the King James Version when we see the word LORD all capitalized, it is referring to Yahweh (Y^əhōvâ - Hebrew), Jehovah (Greek), or in other words it is referring to Father God. In the scriptures when we see the term "Lord" with just the capital "L" it is referring to the Hebrew word "adonai." The word "adonai" in the scriptures is always referring to Yeshua or in other words – Jesus.

We see this in Psalm 110:1 as it reads, "*The **LORD** said unto my **Lord**, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*" This is directly relating to the fact that the "LORD" (Yahweh – Father God) is speaking to David's "Lord" (Adonai – referring to Jesus). It declares that Jesus sits along with the Father, at His right hand, in total authority and power along with the Father.

We see in Psalm 27:1, that David is declaring that Yahweh (Father God) is his "light and salvation." The term "light" here refers to God being his source of life, as well as David's salvation - his source of safety, welfare, prosperity and victory. If God is for David than whom shall he fear or be afraid of - who shall prosper in coming against him. That is exactly where we must be. If God truly is your "light," your source of life, and your salvation, your source of safety and victory, then why should we ever be fearful. If God is for us, then who can stand against us? Through our God we have the ultimate victory – we have ETERNAL LIFE!!!

The writer (David) goes on to tell us that when things are going against us and it may seem like the enemy is all around us and that he is closing in against us, that we can be confident in the fact that God will always be there and that He will “never leave” us “nor forsake” us. We read that in Deuteronomy 31:6, remember? “...*Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*” Yes, everything may hit the fan... but God will never fail you, **never!!!**

Psalm 27:4, therefore, is of paramount importance to every child of God. It tells us, “**One thing** have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; 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.” This was the **one thing** that David declared that he desired the most and that he sought after the most – to be in the house of God all the days of his life. He desired to be in the presence of God all the days of his life – all the time. Shouldn’t that be our desire? Hmmm.....

Yes, that was David’s ultimate desire. It was what he continually sought after. Unfortunately, David could never fully receive or fully experience what he so desperately desired and sought after. Yes, he had a relationship with his God, however, it was not a full relationship. David never had that full relationship with his God that we can now have. We can now have that full relationship because of all that Jesus did. He died on the cross, rose from the grave and has risen to the right hand of the Father, waiting to soon return.

Yes, David had to go to the place referred to as “Abraham’s bosom” and wait for that day when Jesus would die on the cross and then finally rise from the dead. Fortunately, for the true believer today, we do not have to “wait.” When we pass from this life, we go directly to the place where the Father and Jesus now dwell – the place of eternal life, the eternal paradise known as heaven and then one day, to the New Jerusalem.

Look what David wanted to do. He wanted to simply “...*behold the beauty of the Lord.*” In other words he wanted to simply enjoy all that God’s dwelling place would have for those who loved Him. Yes, David wanted to just look upon the Lord. Here was a man who truly was captivated by the love of God for him and his own love for his God. Is that where we are? It should be. We all should just desire to be in our God’s presence so that we can truly just behold the beauty, majesty and love of our God.

David then continues on by declaring that when he was in trouble and when he is now in trouble, His God will always be there for him. His God, our God, will always be there to protect us and shield us from the full effects of the arrows and darts of the enemy. Oh, the attacks will continually come. We are to never think that they will stop. They will always come.

But... our God will shield us from their effects. And when he does we should desire and want to praise Him with song and declare unto Him our spiritual "sacrifices of joy." We will declare that we know, that we know, that we know, that we have the ultimate victory in and through Jesus. We know that we know that we win because we have eternal life with our God!!! Yes, we will sing our praise unto our God with joy and thanksgiving.

We must remember that our God will never leave us nor forsake us. I know we said that previously. But how quickly we can forget. David writes about it again as he declares that even if greater things come against him, he will not allow those things to hinder his vision of who his God is. We must continually remember that. There are always going to be things that will come up against us. That is simply just life and the actions of the devil against us. However, we must never ever forget that God is always there. He will never leave us nor forsake us. That is His promise to each and every one of His people. Which includes you!!!

David writes that it is God's desire for us to seek after Him. He desires for us to continually seek after Him because then we will see, recognize and know that He is always there. God is always as close as the mention of His name. David writes that he will always seek after the Lord. Unfortunately, we see in David's life that there were times when this zeal and love for the Lord floundered. When he got older we see in the Word that David many times did things in his own strength and in His own understanding. We must learn from David's mistakes.

Yes, David made many mistakes but the greatest mistake was desiring to do something that God never truly gave Him the thought to do. That was – to build a Temple unto the Lord. If we take a look in the scriptures we will see that it was never God's intent to have a permanent place of worship. It was David's idea and David's prompting to build God a Temple. God never wanted a Temple. God never wanted a building. God's ultimate place where He wanted to dwell and be worshiped was in the hearts and lives of those that truly loved and worshiped Him. He desires to dwell in the hearts of people.

However, we see that God relented and allowed a Temple to be built. However, it was not to be built by David because David shed the blood of men. Rather, it was to be built by His son, Solomon. Through the rest of the Old Testament, we can see how the Temple building itself became a place where much false worship and even pagan worship was performed in the name of worshipping the one and only true God-Yahweh.

It was only when Jesus came and showed us what it meant to truly love and worship God did we begin to see man's misunderstanding of what God really desired. Our worship was never to be in any building, anywhere. The only place of the true worship of the Living God was to be within the walls of the "temple" made by the hand of God-people, you and I.

Yes, people were to be the "bricks" that would make up the "temple" of the Living God. They are to worship Him from out of their born again spirit according to His truth – the Word of God, as found in the scriptures. The only way that these "bricks of the temple" could be built was by the acceptance of the blood and then the resurrection of the "final sacrifice" – Jesus.

*"Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a **plain path**, because of mine enemies."* This is what Psalm 27:11 asks of the Lord. Yes, Lord, continually teach us your ways. We must continually seek after His ways and not our own. God's ways and thoughts are not the same as we would do things nor as we would think. (Isaiah 55:8) We must never think that we know it all or that we have it all. We need our God to show us the simple and **plain path** to Him. This is why the Holy Spirit was given. The Holy Spirit will now help lead us and guide us on the **plain path** – that "upright" path that leads us to our God.

In Psalm 27:13 David writes, *"[I would have fainted], unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."* David, at this time, was truly seeking after God. We see that David could have and would have given up and lost heart, but he knew that God was so very good and that He would find a way to show His goodness to David. David's faith in His God was truly expressed in this one statement.

David believed and was totally persuaded in the goodness of His God. Are we that persuaded in who our God is – even when stuff "hits the fan?" David uses the term *"in the land of the living."* The "land of the living" means this present world in which we live.

It speaks of life on this side of the grave. It was an expression the Jewish people used that simply meant that God would watch over them all the days of their lives. Today, this now also refers to all of God's children who have Jesus as their Savior and Lord. God will continually watch over us until the day we are finally with Him. In Psalm 27:13, David remained confident that he would "*see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*"

David was declaring that He believed God would hear his cries and answer his prayers. Therefore, he would wait for the Lord and trust in Him. David was declaring that God would indeed protect and provide for himself, as well as for all of Israel – the "land of the living." This now refers to all those who are now called by God to be His people through Jesus.

David concludes Psalm 27 with verse 14 where he writes and encourages all true believers to, "*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*" The word "wait" means to look for; to expect and to hope for; to have great expectancy for something good to take place. We need to have great expectancy in the good things of God to come to pass. As we do this we must put our total trust in Him.

To place our total "trust" in the Lord means that we are to - strengthen, prevail, harden, be strong or become strong, be courageous, be firm, grow firm, be resolute – in our God. David encourages himself, as well as us today, that we need to strengthen our heart. We must continually build our selves up in God and in His Word. Never let our guard down but rather be totally resolute in our belief in who our God truly is.

David says this twice as he concludes this Psalm. The final time is almost an imploring exhortation for every child of God to be strong and resolute in our faith in who our God truly is. David declares, "...*WAIT, I SAY, ON THE LORD!!!* We must wait – on Him – and Him alone. We must not trust in anything or anyone else, not even ourselves.

David began Psalm 27 with, "*The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?*" He concludes this Psalm with verse 14, "***Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.***"

Yes, God is my light and He is my salvation therefore I shall never fear what comes my way. Why? Because I am of a good courage and the Lord will strengthen my heart as difficult times come. He will do this for all His true believers. The time is getting shorter and shorter. We all must totally turn to, trust in and rely on our God for who He is. We must place our trust in His Word for it will come to pass in these end times. God is our Light, our life, and our salvation – our hope, our assurance, of eternal life!!! We must, ***“Wait on the Lord...”***