

“The Ultimate Confidence”
Psalm 27
(Preached at Trinity, May 23, 2010)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The Psalms are a wonderful treasure house of wealth for the Christian. They open for us many paradigms of praise and worship. They provide practical direction in how we should live. They peek into the sorrow that sin brings to the heart of a believer. They bring to our mind the mighty power of our God as He forever stands as the mighty deliverer for His people. They demonstrate the great confidence believers can have in their God.
 2. It is this confidence that **Psalm 27** sets before us. It is a familiar psalm. A couple of the verses in particular stand clearly in our memories.
Psalm 27:1 – “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?”
Psalm 27:4 – “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 enquire in his temple.”
 3. The psalm divides clearly into four parts
 - David’s confidence before God – **Verses 1-3**
 - David’s communion with God – **Verses 4-6**
 - David’s communication with God – **Verses 7-12**
 - David’s courage to wait upon God – **Verses 13-14**
- I. David’s confidence before God – **Verses 1-3**
David says God has been three things to him
- A. “The LORD *is* my light”
 1. In Scripture God is often described in the context of light
 - a. In Psalm 104 God is described as wrapping Himself in light as with a blanket
Psalm 104:2 – “Who coverest *thyself* with light as *with* a garment”
 - b. Paul described God a dwelling in unapproachable light
1 Timothy 6:16 – “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.”
 2. The Lord Jesus Christ is described as light
John 1:4-5 – “In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”
John 1:9 – “*That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

1 John 1:5 – “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

3. Light can carry several meanings in the context of this psalm
 - a. Light implies illumination

Psalm 89:15 – “Blessed *is* the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.”

Psalm 119:105 – “Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

(David could be speaking of God’s guiding light. He prays in **Verse 11** - “Teach me thy way, O LORD”)
 - b. Light stands opposed to darkness.
Light is often referred to in the context of holiness while darkness is that of sin or evil.
1 John 1:5-7 – “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
Ephesians 5:8 – “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye light* in the Lord: walk as children of light:”
(David could be speaking of God leading him in holiness – David always sought to walk in the ways of God)
 - c. On other meaning could be gleaned from the context of this psalm.
Darkness can refer to gloom. Fear consumes us in darkness.
David is saying that because of God he has no fear.
Psalm 27:1 – “whom shall I fear? of whom shall I be afraid?”
- B. “and my salvation”
1. The Hebrew word for salvation means deliverance. When we see the word salvation it brings definite thoughts to our minds but this word salvation in the OT refers to any deliverance.
 - a. God’s rescue of Israel from Egypt was a salvation
 - b. David has in mind his deliverance from his enemies.
 2. But there is a much greater and higher salvation that comes through our great Deliverer, Jesus Christ.
- C. “the LORD is the strength of my life”
1. Literally, it refers to a stronghold or fortress.
The ESV translates it stronghold.
In Jeremiah 16 the KJV translates this word “fortress”
Jeremiah 16:19 – “O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction. . .”
 2. David expressed this in Psalm 18
Psalm 18:2 – “The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer”

3. Those who are protected by God have infinite protection
Proverbs 18:10 – “The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”

- D. Because of this confidence in God all fear was removed
Psalm 27:1 – “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?”
Psalm 27:3 – “Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will* I *be* confident.”
1. In Christ is confidence. He is our great Deliverer
 2. He has promised His abiding presence forever. In our darkest hour He is there.
 3. He is there for our salvation and He is there as we live our life
 We can take our refuge in Him.

II. David’s confidence grew from his communion with God – **Verses 4-6**

- A. How did David come to such confidence?
1. It came as the result of his relationship with God. God was his God.
 He remained continually in the presence of God
 2. David’s greatest desire was resting in the presence of God
Psalm 27:4 – “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 enquire in his temple.”
 - a. This was his chief desire – “one thing have I desired”
 This is what he sought after.
 - b. He wanted to dwell in the house of the LORD
 - c. What is your chief desire? How do you feel about worship? How do you feel about gathering with God’s people for worship and for prayer?
 - d. Christians have often suffered greatly for their desire to gather with the people of God in worship
 3. Listen to how David describes his worship
 “to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”
 - a. “To behold the beauty of the LORD”
 This refers to recognizing the excellence of God
 It could also be translated “delightfulness”
 - b. To David, God was his chief delight
 - c. “to enquire in his temple.”
 “To seek, to consider, reflect, meditate”
 - (1) This is the height of worship – to be caught up in the excellence of God.
 - (2) Remember, we are not talking about the glorious Temple. At this point the Tabernacle was still a tent. It wasn’t the outward trappings that drew David to worship. It was God!!

(3) Yet, David sought God in His Tabernacle. Today we gather with the people of God.

Hebrews 10:25 – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*”

Acts 2:46 – “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple”

4. Does this describe your desire?

Is your sweetest desire, your greatest longing to come into the presence of God?

- a. There are those who claim, “I can worship God anywhere.” In a sense this is true. Our entire life is an experience of knowing God.
- b. But there is something particular about corporate worship and there is something particular about this place we come to meet.
- c. It isn’t the building. It is the place of gathering.
James Montgomery Boice – “There is something to be experienced of God in church that it is not quite so easy to experience elsewhere.”

III. David’s confidence in God led him to communication with God – **Verses 7-12**

A. In confidence David goes before the throne of God

Psalm 27:7 – “Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.”

1. David knew that it was God’s desire that we trust in Him; that we go before Him in prayer. David gave Himself to seeking God.
Psalm 27:8 – “*When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.”
2. When all others failed, God was there
Psalm 27:9 – “thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.”
3. Even earthly parents may disappoint us, but God will never disappoint
Psalm 27:10 – “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.”
4. David’s plea – **Verses 11-12** – Lead me to a place of safety, to a place removed from the presence of mine enemies.

B. This world is full of rejection and hostility

1. Parents and children can become disgruntled. Children flee from their homes. Parents disown their children. Husbands and wives divorce. Friends abandon one another.
2. God will never abandon us
Hebrews 13:5 – “*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*”

IV. David’s confidence in God led to courage to wait upon God – **Verses 13-14**

A. What is the conclusion to a life fixed upon the mighty power and presence of God? It can be found in a single word: courage

Psalm 27:14 – “be of good courage”

1. Does David receive his protection from God? Yes because in the end he was able to wait upon God
 2. God's answer to pray does not always come swiftly. We often have to patiently wait long for it.
- B. This carries the idea of patience and perseverance
- Psalms 37:9** – “For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.”
- Isaiah 40:31** – “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.”
1. Waiting demands courage. The fearful flee. The courageous wait upon God's deliverance.
 2. The word David uses is קָוָה (qavah) – “to wait with expectation, to look for eagerly”
 3. Waiting upon God is an active pursuit
 - a. Waiting upon God is not mere fatalism
 - b. We must continue to trust Him in confidence
 - c. We must continue to worship and adore Him
 - d. We must continue to pray to Him
 4. Our generation is generally marked by weakness, softness. We are a generation of cowards, of complainers
 - a. Joab before the Assyrians: **2 Samuel 10:12** – “Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.”
1 Corinthians 16:13 – “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” Lit. “act like men”
 - b. Spurgeon – “‘be of good courage’ A soldier's motto. Be it mine. Courage we shall need, and for the exercise of it we have as much reason as necessity, if we are soldiers of King Jesus.”

Conclusion:

1. What the Kingdom of our Lord needs is mighty soldiers. Fearless followers of an all powerful God.
2. David maintained confidence before God; communion with God; communication with God, and courage to wait upon God.
3. Doest this describe your life?