

Sermon: **Confidence in the Presence of God (Psalm 27)**

Date: **April 23, 2017**

The book of Psalms is filled with all sorts of psalms that offer encouragement and instruction for just about every situation we might find ourselves in. Some psalms ascribe worth to God. Some instruct God's people. Others are lamentations toward God. Psalm 27 is a psalm of confidence. Psalms of confidence express confidence and praise in the Lord for the refuge and security that he provides for those who trust in him. Psalms like Psalm 27 need to be read in light of the danger and troubles that come into our lives. David wrote Psalm 27 during a personal crisis in his life. Although he is in the midst of a difficult situation, David reminds himself that God is faithful and that his presence is a refuge for his people. As we study this psalm together, we will see that through the ups and downs of life we can find an unshakeable confidence in the presence and protection of God. He will not let us down. He will be our help in times of need. He is our light, our stronghold, and our deliverer. He is faithful and we can trust him.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Psalm 27 and ensure that you have listened to the sermon.
 - a. In verse 1, David refers to God as his light, his salvation, and his stronghold. What does he mean by each of these descriptors? What do they teach us about who God is?
 - b. After reminding himself of who God is, David concludes in verse 1 that he has no reason to fear. How does reminding ourselves of how awesome God is help eliminate fear in the midst of trials?
 - c. In verse 2, David reminds himself of God's past faithfulness. Why is it important to remember God's past faithfulness to us, especially in the midst of a trial?
 - d. How is David able to be confident (v. 3) in the midst of his difficult situation?
 - e. What is the "one thing" that David asks for before he asks for anything else? Why is this "one thing" his all-consuming passion?
 - f. What can we practically do to seek after God? How does this help us endure the trials of life?

- g. Read verses 7-12 and write down every one of David's requests to the LORD.
- h. David pours out his heart to God. Why is it important that we pour out our hearts to God in the midst of a trial?
(Another example of this is found in 1 Samuel 1:12-15)
- i. Why is David confident that he "shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living," (v. 13)?
- j. How does the presence of God help us to be strong and let our hearts take courage (v. 14)?
- k. God will deliver us from our present trials, either in this life or the next. Why is it important to fix our eyes on eternity when we suffer?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. In the midst of his difficult situation, David takes the time to reflect on who God is. What attributes or descriptors for God do you find particularly comforting and reassuring in the midst of a trial? Why?
3. Why is it important to remember God's past faithfulness to us, especially in the midst of a trial? Can you think of any examples of God's past faithfulness to you in your own life that are particularly encouraging to you?
4. If God is not the "one thing" we desire more than anything else, what can we do to grow our desire for more of him?
5. How can we fight to keep an eternal perspective when we endure suffering? Why is this important?

Accountability Question

Is there a difficult situation in your life right now that you would like prayer for? How can we pray specifically?