

Psalm 27:1-14
Sure Steps in Uncertain Times

Sunday Morning
June 28, 2020
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Psalm 27:1-14: *A Psalm¹ of David.*

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?

²When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

³Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear:

Though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

⁴One 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.

⁵For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion:

In the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

⁶And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me:

Therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

⁸When thou saidst, "Seek ye my face"; my heart said unto thee, "Thy face, LORD, will I seek."

⁹Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

¹¹Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

¹²Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

¹³I had fainted [I would have surrendered], unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

¹ The Psalms are an ancient form of poetry. Modern poetry is characterized by rhyme and meter, but ancient poetry has parallelism, in which the same thing is said with different words. Note verse 1 in which both lines end with a question of who to fear. Verses 2 and 3 say basically the same thing three times. The pattern does not continue throughout this Psalm, but this might help to understand some of the wordiness without any new information.

¹⁴Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

I. Introduction

- A. Crisis' bring anxiety due to uncertainty about the future
- B. Everyone has hopes for the future and plans accordingly. Even though we cannot see beyond this life, the promise of God is for a future beyond this life
- C. David had concerns about his future when he wrote Psalm 27, probably due to one of the many wars David was involved in during his life.
 - 1. Concerns about people trying to kill him
 - 2. Concerns people he trusted would forsake him
 - 3. Concerns God would not see him when he called
- D. David showed five sure steps of living in uncertain times

II. Step of Vigilance (verses 2-3)

- A. The bad news: The world David lived in
 - 1. David was aware of the situation he was in: He had enemies
 - 2. David was alert to his surroundings: His enemies were nearby and desired his destruction
- B. The worst news: The spiritual condition of all men
 - 1. David noticed the sin in the hearts of all men: Their hearts were motivated by evil intentions

*Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so **death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:***
 - 2. David acknowledged that he was a carrier of the same disease: sin

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
*Isaiah 64:6 But we [God's chosen people] are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousness** [good deeds and best behaviour] **are as filthy rags;** and we all do fade [wither] as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*
- C. The good news: The cure for the spiritual condition

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

D. The best news

1. The cure is provided as a free gift

Romans 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

2. The cure comes with power over reinfection

1 Corinthians 6:20 *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

III. Step of Confidence (verses 1 & 3)

- A. David had fear, but he also had confidence that God controlled even the smallest circumstances in his life, even during battle with his army. The LORD was his light, his strength, and his salvation.

- B. Paul also had this confidence, noting that whatever happened to him, he would benefit

2 Corinthians 5:6 – 8 *Therefore [because we know God has a new body waiting for us in heaven] **we are always confident**, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body [alive on earth], we are absent from the Lord: For we walk by faith, not by sight. **We are confident**, I say, and willing rather to [have our soul and spirit] be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

2 Corinthians 12:10 *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities [weaknesses], in reproaches [insults], in necessities [hardships], in persecutions, in distresses [difficulties] for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.***

IV. Step of Reverence (verses 4-7)

- A. Presence of the Lord (verse 4)

1. This was the "...one thing [David] desired from the Lord...": to live in God's presence
2. in his time of crisis. Two things can happen:
 - a. God can remove the crisis
 - b. God can use the crisis

Philippians 1:12 *But I [Paul] would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me [the difficulties I have gone through] have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of [have served to further promote] the gospel;*

- B. Perspective of the Lord (verses 5–6)

1. David wanted God's will in his life, and he knew God had used past crisis to shape him into the person he now is

2. David completely trusted that God would continue that process.

Psalm 8:4 *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest [that You care for] him?*

C. Prayer to the Lord (verse 7)

Luke 18:1 *And he [Jesus] spake a parable unto them [the disciples] to this end [to teach them], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint [not to become discouraged];*

V. Step of Obedience (verses 8–11)

A. During a crisis we tend to react with our own reasoning rather than reflect on what God wants us to do in us

B. God wants complete obedience not careful disobedience

VI. Step of Patience (verses 13-14)

A. Waiting on the LORD is never wasted time. God has your best interests in His heart. You will miss His desires for you if you rush through the crisis.

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. We can focus on the crisis and despair

1 Peter 5:7 *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

2. We can trust in the LORD and wait on Him

B. Waiting involves having good courage

C. God will strengthen your heart