

WAITING ON OUR PRECIOUS LORD

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Psalm 27

An Exuberant Declaration of Faith

A Psalm 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?

When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh,
my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.
Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
Though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.

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.

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 the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, 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, Lord, 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 the Lord will take care
of me. Teach me Your way, O Lord, 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 the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your
heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

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This Psalm of David is the favorite of many of God's people, including myself. Although when I get down to speaking of God's Word, I just have to confess that I love all of the Word of God. Anyone else? How blessed are we that we have God's Word. What a precious gift God has given us. The Word of God, being what is called the Holy Bible, is what has been called God's love letter to His people. It is also described as God's plan of redemption for His people, from the beginning in the book of Genesis to the very last book of Revelation.

It is also, as we say, God's instruction manual for His sons and daughters; His children. What is the point of it all, one may ask? God's Word is also what God wants us to know about Him and His ways - to really know Him, so that we can live our lives in His blessings, but also to be who we were created and intended to be - that is, His children, children of God, so that we may be a part of the family of God! We also have God's Word that gives us the greatest revelation that has been revealed to us by God, aside from God revealing to us that HE IS the creator of all things, and that He is the Sovereign ruler over all of His creation. Yet the great revelation given to us is, in the words of the Apostle Peter, that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." (**John 6:69**) Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One of God sent by God to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. **John 3:16-17**, Jesus says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

King David may have not fully understood that Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, was going to be God's way for our salvation but He did know the One who WAS/IS his Savior and ours, our God and our Creator, the One and only true God! King David starts off this Psalm recognizing God for who He is and in how He realizes his need and appreciation for His Lord and His God as his Savior and Sustainer. He also speaks about his troubles, his enemies that are against him. He says, "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?" You can say that David was reminding himself to have a proper perspective on his circumstances. When David says the Lord is his light, what does that say to you? To me, it says that first of all God illumines our path, reveals his truth to us, exposes the pitfalls, the dangers, to guide us on a "smooth path". The writer of **Psalm 119:105-106** says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." They continue by saying, "I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments." They are not only saying that God's word is their guide, but it also reveals the very character of God, who God IS, that He is Righteous and Just (that He is perfect in all of His ways). They also acknowledge the covenant they have with God, their Creator and Sustainer, by committing themselves to follow God and His

Word. As with all of us, we have to first acknowledge and accept God as the Creator and Sustainer of all things, AND that we are HIS just as David said in **Psalm 24:1**, "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

It is for all of us, who have believed on Jesus being Christ, our Savior, to then receive Him, that is, to literally receive His Holy Spirit into our hearts. When we believe that Jesus died on a cross for our sins, taking our sins upon Himself so that we CAN be forgiven of our sins and cleansed of our unrighteousness, we are also entering into a covenant with God, which is a legal and binding contract with God. When we ask Him to save us, we are essentially allowing His Holy Spirit to come into us, to begin that marvelous transformation of making us into Christ-likeness, of whom God intended for us to be (even before we were born). "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:12-13**) That is what Jesus said must happen for all of us, in order to be saved, to be born-again, to be born of the Spirit. That is the sealing of the covenant to say that we ARE children of God. **Romans chapter 8** really explains that well, that we then begin our new life in the Spirit, for God's eternal purpose, as He is building His eternal kingdom, even now!

That is the process that God works in us. What David is acknowledging in this Psalm is that he was God's child and that God was his Lord, his God, and his Savior. It is literally impossible for God to be just our God (our Creator), or just God as our Savior, to where we believe that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the grave on the third day. God's intended purpose is to get us to the understanding and willingness to have Him as our God, our Savior, and our Lord. Many folks believe Jesus to be their Savior but come short of ever allowing Him to be their Lord. Guess what? As God spoke and the Apostle quoted, "'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.'" (**Romans 14:11**) Kind of like God saying, we can do this the hard way (which ultimately leads one to the second death) or we can do this the blessed way that leads to eternal life in Christ!

But hopefully we are to the understanding that we aren't given God's Word and being led by the Holy Spirit, that is, believing on Christ and receiving Him just so we can be saved and then prance around the fields of glory in heaven. Next, David says this, "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." A note I put in my Bible on that passage is that David, and I, want to 1. be with God 2. to see God in all His beauty and glory 3. and to know God.

As we get to know God we hopefully are getting to that place where we are constantly longing for Him, wanting more of Him, where we want to abide in His presence, to where we do love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind. (**Mark 12:30-31**) As the writer of **Psalms 42:1** says, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God." The more we know God the more we want to be in His glorious presence! It is also then what we want for our brothers and sisters in Christ, so that we love our neighbors as ourselves. It is also what we want for even our enemies. If only they knew my beautiful and precious Savior and God, they too would long for His presence. That is what naturally **becomes us** as we abide in Christ!

I don't know all about your lives but I lived a large portion of my life as a fool. I am not speaking of me being a court jester where I always had to be over the top silly and goofy, although I suppose there were those times. I was a fool for not responding to the call of God for me to come out of the darkness and into His marvelous and beautiful light, for the countenance of God to shine upon me, to be blessed by the sweet fellowship with Jesus and with other brothers and sisters in Christ. What a wonderful thing it is to be a part of the family of God and to be a child of God!

David said, "Hear, O Lord, 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, Lord, 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." You know God will allow us to go about our lives, to do whatever we want to do. But He also will occasionally gently knock at the door of our heart to see if we will let Him in. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." (**Revelation 3:20**) Another example, that may make more sense to someone who already has believed on Christ and received Him, and therefore already knows God, could be like what happened with Elijah the prophet where it says, "the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice." (**1 Kings 19:11-12**)

Hopefully, I pray even now, that we allow ourselves to be open to what God has for us, to have ears to hear and eyes to see, and that we aren't looking for signs and wonders, we aren't looking for God to entertain us, but we are waiting on God because we love God and want more of Him, for ourselves and for His people.

How appropriate for David to close this Psalm saying, "Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!" What are you waiting on the Lord for? Salvation?

Deliverance? Healing? Our ultimate hope is in David saying, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Then he ends saying, "Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!" While we could all from time to time need a strengthening of our hearts to overcome in this evil world, perhaps there is something else that you are waiting on the Lord for. After we have given our request to God, we have to then trust that in His time He WILL answer our prayer. Try this change to what David said, "Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He [will give you the desires of your heart]; Wait, I say, on the Lord!"

I am not changing God's Word to make it say what I want it to say. I am referring to God's Word that says, "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." (**Psalm 37:4**) That too was a Psalm of David. That means though, as we get to know God and His Son Jesus, and as we begin to love God with all of our heart, we will then have to wait on Him and He WILL give us the desires off our heart! While God is keeping us and protecting us and leading us, while we are waiting on the Lord, we can say as David did, "Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord." We can also be about our Father's business in sharing and showing the love and the gospel of Christ Jesus, as that is God's intended purpose for us being here. Amen?

In closing let us pray, "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: [and this is my prayer for us today]

"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." (**Numbers 6:24-26**)