

Do You Have a Personal Faith in Christ? Psalm 27:1-6

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? **2** When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. **3** Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.

As you ponder the question that comes from verse 1, I want you to know that David demonstrates in this Psalm that he has a personal relationship with the LORD. Despite his many failings, David had an intimate relationship with the Savior. While men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil, David wants us all to know that he basks in the Light that the Lord provides. First John 1:5-7 confirms this Psalm of David:

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

We all know that light is a comfort and an encouragement. I was just told recently by one who was despondent and disheartened—"I am in a dark time in my life." We have the old expression--there is light at the end of the tunnel. Tunnels we usually find are not scary, even to children, as I've experienced in my family, because you can see the light and it is not far off. Light is the source of life, and Jesus who is called the Sun of Righteousness is the One who brings us both light and life. David testifies that he sought for the light, and the Lord responded by revealing Himself. David affirmed in Psalm 18:28--*For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.* The enemies attack us when we are in darkness, but if we walk in the light of the Lord we will be protected by the Lord. When Elijah challenged the darkness that had fallen on Israel at Mt. Carmel, the LORD sent light in the form of a consuming fire that consumed the sacrifice. The crowd responded after seeing the fire: "The Lord, He is the God." Verse 1 teaches that God not only gives salvation, **He is salvation.** Salvation finds us in the darkness, but it does not leave us there. It gives light to those who sit in the valley of the shadow of death. God is the stronghold in which we find light and salvation, and when we realize that, we have no fear (Proverbs 18:10; 2 Corinthians 12:2).

Do you celebrate God's past deliverances in your life?

In verse 2, we read: *The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?* Memories of what God has done for you in the past draws you closer in faith. For you, think back to a time when you saw God work, and remember that the same God who was with you then is still there—and He has not gotten older. You need to draw near to Him.

Are you personally confident that God is sufficient for every need?

In verse 3, we read: *Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident.* David conjures up a frightening scene in this verse. There are his enemies with their banners. But in the midst of all this, faith sustains David in a definite manner. When an enemy opposes, faith in God is necessary (Psalm 3:6-7; I Kings 22:19; 2 Kings 6:15). All the powers of the enemy vanish for the Christian who can say—The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear—The Law—it is satisfied; Satan—he is conquered; Afflictions—they are sanctified; Death—it is overcome. If God be for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31).

Verses 4-6 teach us to dig deep with precision and investigate the reality of our faith. Like Abraham in the book of Genesis, the testing of our faith proves whether it is real. We can say a quick prayer and announce that we are believers, but will we walk away the second something bad happens? If you do, the seed of your faith falls on stony ground, and was not rooted in soil that had been cultivated in a desire to seek the LORD.

I. Do you turn to God in all Situations? (Psalm 27:4)

David affirms in verse 4: *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.* Your faith is proven to be real when you flee to God to find shelter. Whether it is the peril of temptation or the attack of evil men, the soul flies to God and finds shelter. At all times—be wholly devoted to God even when things are going well. To behold the beauty of God speaks of the loveliness of the Lord. It is truly all that makes Him an object of admiration and delight. It is only when we make God our Alpha and Omega, the supreme object of our delight that we can hope that He will reveal Himself to us. The claims of the world are constant and oppressive. If you have a personal relationship with God, you will inquire diligently to learn the truth. Do you have a burning desire to learn the Word of God? The Bible has every answer for your every need, and your real faith will lead you to His Word and prayer!

II. Do you trust in God as your shelter in the worst danger?

Verse 5 states: *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.* God's presence in the OT is often set with descriptive terms such as "pavilion," "tabernacle" and "rock." Our pavilion out back was just such a place for us here at BFC during the pandemic those 19 Sundays. All three in this verse show God's sovereign love. Recognizing that you are a sinner, you flee to Christ, **not to hide from God, but to hide with God.** God then places you high above your foes, upon an impregnable, unconquerable Rock, which never can be destroyed. David trusted that the Lord was sufficient for even the worst danger. God's attributes, which stand opposed to the one who rejects the gospel of Christ, are the very defenses for the believer.

III. Do you thankfully pray to God expecting answers?

In verse 6, we read: *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.* Confidence is seen as the head is lifted up above the enemies (Luke 21:28). Two things make the head hang down—fear and shame. However, hope eases the Christian's heart, and keeps him from a despondent mind. If you have your trust in the Lord, you can hold your head up high in victory to the glory of God. In the Old Testament, the peace offering expressed our fellowship and our gratitude to God for His answers to prayer (Leviticus 3). Since the peril is past thanks to the workings of God, there is the joy of salvation to be expressed. Singing praises to the Lord in the house of God is vital. If you want to have a personal relationship with God, you need to involve yourself in worship—not just coming, but actually worshipping—singing the hymns, reading the Scripture, praying, and allow the Holy Spirit to apply God's Word to your heart. Eph. 5:19-20 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **giving thanks always for all things** to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving Bible Fellowship Center Family