

"Wait on the LORD"

Psalm 27

There is no information given in the title of this psalm as to its occasion. There were numerous occasions in the life of King David that this psalm would fit so there's no reason to give any time or guess work as to what that occasion was.

This is another psalm of David's that has familiar language and purpose and shows how important it is to be reminded throughout life how good our God is, even in the darkest of times, and how important it is to learn to wait on Him and follow His leading and will.

Some (including my dad, probably referencing Spurgeon, and several other prominent Bible teachers) refer to this psalm as "The Tonic Psalm," applying the term "tonic" as something that makes one feel stronger and happier. Medicine for the soul, so to speak.

There are several references in this psalm to strength - something we need in this sinful world, something we need as we "wait on the LORD." The word for "wait" (קָוָה) is one that carries the idea of hope. We wait on the LORD because He is our hope, He is the One we look to for everything.

Waiting on the LORD in hope and patience will give us blessings and cause us to need Him more.

I. WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PROTECTION AS WE WAIT- VS. 1-3

The Person of strength - "The LORD."

A. There are three things in verse one that describe what the LORD is to us when it comes to our

protection.

1. "My light" - we need not fear the unknown, the darkness, any longer because He is "my light." This is said of Jesus in the New Testament, again showing the Jesus was, is, and always will be God.

John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² The same was in the beginning with God.

³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

⁴ 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 8:12

¹² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

2. "My salvation" - we need not fear being lost and without hope any longer. This is also a reference to Jesus, as declared in the Gospels.

Luke 2:30-32 [found in Simeon's adoration]

³⁰ For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

³¹ Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

³² A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Years ago, a military officer and his wife were aboard a ship that was caught in a raging ocean

storm. Seeing the frantic look in her eyes, the man tried unsuccessfully to allay her fears. Suddenly she grasped his sleeve and cried, "How can you be so calm?" He stepped back a few feet and drew his sword. Pointing it at her heart, he said, "Are you afraid of this?" Without hesitation she answered, "Of course not!" "Why not?" he inquired. "Because it's in your hand, and you love me too much to hurt me." To this he replied, "I know the One who holds the winds and the waters in the hollow of His hand, and He will surely care for us!" The officer was not disturbed because he had put his trust in the Lord. (source unknown)

3. "The strength of my life" - we need not fear the enemy any longer. (This is the first time this Hebrew word for "strength" (יָמָא) is used in the Psalms.)

He's our stronghold or fortress in life. This speaks to a protected place of safety - He's who we should run to when we are in need or in trouble.

Psalm 37:39

³⁹ But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

- B. Because the LORD is the strength of our lives, because our life is hidden within His defenses, when our enemies attempt to overtake us, they will fall short of their intended purpose. Even if an entire army comes against us, no matter what the**

odds, we are under His protection.

II. WE WILL HAVE A CRAVING OF GOD'S PRESENCE AS WE WAIT - VS. 4-6

The place of strength - His presence.

A. Vs. 4 - there was only one thing the psalmist desired - to be in the presence of the LORD "all the days of [his] life." Is that true of us? Do we crave His presence that much?

1. Even in the severest trials anyone could imagine, Job wanted God's presence in his life.

Job 23:8-12

⁸ Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

⁹ On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:

¹⁰ But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

¹¹ My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

¹² Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

2. "One thing have I desired of the LORD" (past tense) - "that will I seek after" (future tense). "The future is used side by side with the perfect [similar to the English simple past tense] in [this verse], in order to express an ardent longing which extends out of the past into the future, and therefore runs through his whole life" (K&D).

B. Vs. 5 - His presence is especially needed when we are "in trouble" - when times of distress and trials come our way.

1. The word for "trouble" here (רָעָה) is very common and the vast majority of times it is translated "evil" or "wickedness." In its simplest form, it means bad or evil. When "bad" or "evil" comes our way, we need to run to His presence for safety. He's our "pavilion," "our tabernacle."
2. The last part of the verse - "he shall set me up upon a rock" - speaks of His strength and provision. The word "rock" is what we saw as "strength" in Psalm 18:2. Within the safety of God's presence, we are on an immovable rock.

C. Vs. 6 - Being in His presence will give us joy, and we will be able to offer up the "sacrifices of joy" in our praise.

III. WE WILL CRY OUT FOR GOD'S PROVISION AS WE WAIT - vs. 7-12

The position of strength - found in the position of prayer.

A. Provision of mercy - vs. 7

Psalm 130:2-4

² Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

³ If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

B. Provision of favor - vs. 8-10

1. Vs. 8 – seeking God’s face is to seek a close relationship with Him as He shows us favor (kindness and approval) in our lives.
2. Vs. 9-10 – this is further explained and illustrated in these two verses.

C. Provision of guidance - vs. 11-12

Are we willing to learn and follow the Lord?

1. The word for “teach” - יָרָה - is one that means, at its root, to shoot, to throw, to pour. It is the root of the word “torah” which is translated as law or instruction most often. Its use as teaching is viewed with the idea of the straightness at which an arrow is shot. Our instruction from the LORD is straightforward and clear and the teaching we give to others should be as well.
2. To be lead “in a plain path” speaks of a safe, unobstructed path.

IV. WE WILL HAVE CONFIRMATION OF GOD’S PROVIDENCE AS WE WAIT - vs. 13-14

The product of strength - the goodness of the LORD.

A. Providential goodness - vs. 13

By this is meant the idea that God's goodness is demonstrated through His divine guidance and care in the events of our lives. It implies that God is actively involved in our world, orchestrating circumstances and events for our benefit, even when they might seem difficult or confusing. This concept is rooted in the belief that God's wisdom

and love are working behind the scenes to bring about a greater good, often beyond our understanding.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

B. Providential courage - vs. 14

By this phrase is meant the courage that comes from believing that God is guiding and protecting us, giving us the strength to overcome obstacles and face difficult situations with confidence.

Conclusion: Psalm 27 is a profound expression of faith in God's power and presence. It begins with a bold declaration of confidence in God as a protector against fear and adversity. This trust fuels a deep longing for communion with God, where the psalmist finds security and peace. Despite challenges and opposition, the psalmist pleads for God's continued guidance and mercy. The psalm concludes with an uplifting call to maintain hope, trust in God's goodness, and await His timing with courage.