

# THE PSALMS IN HUMAN LIFE

## PART 5 (a)

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### PSALM 27

- 1 *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, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.*
- 3 *Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.*
- 4 *One 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.*
- 5 *For 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.*
- 6 *And 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.*
- 7 *Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.*
- 8 *When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.*
- 9 *Hide 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.*
- 10 *When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.*
- 11 *Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.*
- 12 *Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.*
- 13 *I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*
- 14 *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen*

*thine heart: wait, I say, on the  
LORD.*

**A.F. Kirkpatrick** in his commentary says that “Enthusiastic confidence is the keynote of the first six verses of the *Psalm*”.

As this *Psalm* is read you can notice quite distinctly the change of mood that takes place after verse 6. Up to this verse it seems as if the *Psalmist* is reminding himself of how good **The LORD** had been to him, and how he had triumphed over his enemies time and time again, with the help of **The LORD**.

Notice what he says **The LORD is**, in **verse 1**.

**The LORD is** my light and my salvation.

**The LORD is** the strength of my life.

The emphasis is on the words **The LORD is**.

We often come across these words in the Bible so I will give a list of some of them.

**Psalms 10 v 16** **The LORD is** King for ever and ever.

**Psalms 16 v 5** **The LORD is** the portion of mine inheritance.

**Psalms 18 v 2** **The LORD is** my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

**Psalms 23 v 1** **The LORD is** my shepherd; I shall not want.

**Psalms 28 v 7** **The LORD is** my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

I will stop at this point because there are such a large number of verses with these words that to print them all out would take quite a number of pages. The

emphasis that I want to make is on the words **The LORD is** and because of this fact stated by the *Psalmist* he declares that he is not afraid.

Let us notice here that David is.

### 1. REFLECTING.

This thought is worth some consideration, for if you look into the events of David's life you will soon notice that **The LORD** was not only his shield and defence but also behind the instrument, tool, or weapon that brought down the enemy. This is why he could express with confidence that **The LORD** was his light, salvation and the strength of his life.

It is thought that this *Psalm* was written either prior to his anointing by Samuel, or following the rebellion of Absalom. It can be said that this *Psalm* would fit into many of the situations David found himself in.

As we relate this *Psalm* to human life, I think it is a true reflection of what transpires with many of us when we go through some kind of difficulty, trial or persecution. During such occasions there is the tendency to look back, to remind ones self of the times and instances when **The LORD** intervened on ones behalf. This instils a confidence in us that the one who delivered us in the past will deliver us in the present.

The one thing we desire, and seek to recover when going through a trial is to experience how things were previous to it. We reflect on the good feeling, the peace and joy, the tranquillity of knowing the presence of **The LORD**.

Trials and tribulations that are the result of someone else interfering in our lives do affect us deeply. It is hard to suffer for something that you have not been responsible for. I know that we can experience the loss of peace with God

because of our manner of life, or something we have done that has been wrong which has brought about the separation.

David experienced both types of difficulty. He knew what it was to know the activity of an enemy trying to disrupt his life, but he also knew what it was like to have his life disrupted because of something for which he alone was responsible.

The answer to both these disruptions lay in two different areas. It was the intervention of God that would get him out of the one brought on him by the enemy, but it was his own admittance of guilt that would free him from the other.

In this particular case in **Psalm 27**, it is obvious that it was the enemy who was trying to destroy him. This is evident from the words of **verses 2 & 3**

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

**3.** *Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.*

His confidence was born out of the experience when God delivered him from the anger and jealousy of King Saul. It was further strengthened as a result of **The LORD** bringing him through the problems he had with his son Absalom.

**Calvin** in his commentary says “it was a triple shield that protected David. **The LORD** is my Light, Salvation and Strength.”

**Adam Clark’s** commentary says concerning David, that **verses 1 to 3** show “How free he is from fear in any danger; and he shows also the cause of his confidence”.

Then notice he is.

## **2. REQUESTING.**

**4.** *One 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.*

**5.** *For 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.*

These verses hold the secret to where his confidence and security come from. They lie in: dwelling in the house of **The LORD**, which speaks of **Communion**. Beholding the beauty of the Lord; this speaks of **Contemplation**. Enquiring in His temple, this speaks of **Communication**.

If we can adopt these three things David had in his life and practice them, we too shall be confident that **The LORD** will be before us as this triple shield, and then, as it says in **Isaiah 54 v 17**

*“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD”.*

The N.I.V. says

*“No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me, declares the LORD”.*

Then notice in **verse 6**, he is

## **3. REJOICING.**

*And 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.*

I like what **Jamieson Fausset & Brown** says about this verse: “I shall be placed beyond the reach of my enemies. Hence he avows his purpose of rendering joyful thank offerings”.

**Matthew Henry** infers: “not only that they cannot reach him with their darts, but that He shall be exalted to bear rule over them”.

**Psalms Treasury of David** says: “He is quite sure of it. Godly men of old prayed in faith, nothing wavering, and spoke of their answer to their prayers as a certainty. David was by faith so sure of a glorious victory over all those who beset him that he arranged in his own heart what he would do when his foes lay all prostrate before him.”

It is very consoling to know that in Christ we can be beyond the reach of the enemy. You do, however, have to place **yourself** in this position, because you can place yourself in a position where the enemy can get at you by locating yourself in a place of danger, like Samson did, so you can be somewhere that is dangerous for a Christian to be.

There is security in abiding in Christ. **Col 3 v 3** says:

*“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God”*

I am going to finish this study off at this point, and do the remaining verses in our next study. My reason for this is, because of the noticeable change there is in the remaining verses. You will have noticed as we have looked at this *Psalm* that David is very confident, and then the mood changes and he begins to cry to **The LORD**.

