

## Psalm 27

**Title:** Fearless Trust in God

**Author and Date:** David

**Key Verses:** Psalm 27:1, 3, 14

### **Outline**

- A. The confidence of the fearless (verses 1-3).
- B. The desire of the fearless (verses 4-6).
- C. The prayer of the fearless (verses 7-12).
- D. The exhortation of the fearless (verses 13-14).

### **Notes**

Title: “A Psalm of David.” See the notes on Psalm 3.

Verse 1: The precise occasion for this psalm is not known. It may have been written by David during a turbulent period of war or a time of rebellion. In any case, the psalmist knows no fear. He says that the Lord is “light” to the mind, “salvation” to the soul, and “strength” to the body. The Lord does not merely give these things, he is these things. For “light”, see Psa. 84:11; 119:105; and Micah 7:8. For “salvation”, see verse 9; Psa. 18:2, 46; 25:5; 38:22; 51:14; etc. For “strength”, see Psa. 18:1; 28:7; 43:2; 59:17; etc.

Verse 2: The psalmist’s enemies are like wild beasts. “Eat up my flesh” is symbolic of one’s attempt to destroy another through slander or some physical harm (Psa. 14:4).

Verse 4: “One thing” denotes singleness of purpose – a single-minded passion and pursuit of the Lord. This is something which we all should have in life. The physical “house” and “temple” of the Lord had not yet been built in the days of David. Here, the “house” is a reference to the tabernacle or “tent” set up by David (2 Sam. 6:17; see also 7:5-6 and the notes on Psalm 5:7 and 23:6). The “beauty of Jehovah” is not a reference to the Lord’s physical features, but to his good and gracious acts of kindness toward mankind (see verse 13).

Verse 5: “Lift me up upon a rock” is symbolic of divine safety, security, and shelter.

Verse 6: “My head be lifted up” is symbolic of divine courage and victory.

Verses 8-10: Take note of the connecting words. “Face” connects verses 8 and 9, while “forsake” connects verses 9 and 10. To seek the “face” of the Lord is to come before him in humble worship and prayer (see Psa. 105:1-4 and verses 4-6 in this chapter where the psalmist worshipped the Lord in the tabernacle).

Verse 10: “Forsake me” may be a reference to his parents dying or to the typical abandoning of a child by his parents.

Verse 11: The “plain path” is the way of righteous living (see Psa. 5:8) as well as a place free from pitfalls and the ambush of enemies.

Verse 12: For “breathe out cruelty”, see the example of Saul in Acts 9:1.

Verse 13: This verse is a conditional clause that is left unfinished. A complete thought is suggested in italics by the translators: “*I had fainted...*” The phrase “land of the living” is a reference to life on earth in contrast to the grave, the abode of the dead.

Verse 14: To “wait” (Heb. *qavah*) means to eagerly look for something or someone with strong endurance, confident patience, and hope (Isa. 40:27-31; Psa. 31:24). Faith will not fear (verses 1-3) and faith will not faint (verses 13-14).

This verse is a good example of Hebrew parallelism:

A<sup>1</sup> (wait)

B<sup>1</sup> (be strong)

B<sup>2</sup> (take courage)

A<sup>2</sup> (wait)

## **Questions**

1. What is the Lord to the psalmist (verse 1)?
2. What question does the psalmist ask (verse 1)?
3. What happens to the evil-doers, adversaries, and foes (verse 2)?
4. How does the psalmist react in the face of invading armies and war (verse 3)?
5. What is the one thing that the psalmist asks for and seeks after (verse 4)?
6. What does the Lord do for the psalmist in the day of trouble (verse 5)?

7. What does the psalmist do for the Lord in the day of trouble (verse 6)?
8. What requests does the psalmist have (verse 7)?
9. What does the psalmist seek (verse 8)?
10. What additional requests does the psalmist have (verse 9)?
11. What happens when the psalmist is forsaken by his parents (verse 10)?
12. What further requests does the psalmist have in the presence of his enemies (verses 11-12)?
13. What kind of adversaries does the psalmist have (verse 12)?
14. What does the psalmist believe and where does he believe it (verse 13)?
15. What exhortation does the psalmist give his readers (verse 14)?

### **Applications for Today**

1. Faith banishes fear. We do not need to fear or be afraid in the face of adversaries (verses 1-3). What admonition did Moses give Israel in Exodus 14:13? What admonition is given in Hebrews 13:6? What does God not give (2 Tim. 1:7)? Who are we to fear (Mt. 10:28)?

2. Our one main desire in life (our “one thing”) should be to serve the Lord and worship him (verses 4-6). What “one thing” did Mary choose that was more important than all else (Lk. 10:38-42)? What “one thing” did Paul have as his goal in life (Phil. 3:13-14)?
  
3. The psalmist went to the tabernacle and sang praises to God in the face of his enemies (verse 6). What did Paul and Silas do when they were put in prison (Acts 16:25)?
  
4. We need to seek the face of the Lord in times of trouble (verse 8). What is involved in seeking the Lord’s face (read 1 Chron. 16:11; 2 Chron. 7:14; Psa. 105:4; Hos. 5:15)?
  
5. Physical family may forsake us, but the Lord will never forsake us (verse 10). What promise does the Lord give in Isaiah 49:15?
  
6. True faith will not faint. Wait patiently on the Lord (verse 14). What admonition does Paul give the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 15:58 and 16:13? What admonition does Paul give the Ephesians in Ephesians 6:10?