

Wil Owens
Why the Faithful Need Not Fear; Psalm 27
GPBC
2.24.19

Introduction – 2 observations to introduce our study of Psalm 27.

(1) New Seasons of life bring new struggles of faith, and the Gospel combined with prayer is sufficient for every new struggle.

Reading through the psalms it is apparent that David wrestles often with fear and despair. This comes as a bit of a surprise that David would be troubled by these emotions so often in his later life. This is the same David who testified to King Saul that as a young shepherd boy, whenever a lion or bear would attack his flock, he would go after that beast and rescue his sheep. Fearless courage in the face of ferocious beasts. It is David who requested to go and face the giant Goliath. Goliath had taunted Saul and his armies for days, and all of Saul's soldiers were too afraid to face this giant, but not young David. He goes out to face the mighty Goliath with a sling and five stones. Hardly a match for such a towering foe as Goliath. Goliath has more fighting experience than David, has enormous size advantage, and is equipped with weapons of war and the finest of Philistine armor. And yet David marches out to face down this foe with nothing more than a slingshot and a faith in the power of God. Absolute Fearless courage.

And that is just the beginning. He leads his army in victory after victory. He is a man of war, and at last he is King. The mighty, unmatched, undefeated King David. Never would we imagine, never would he imagine that fear would soon become his greatest struggle.

And yet in this new season of life, the new struggle of unexpected fear grips the heart of David. He is no longer the King on the throne; he is the King on the run. Many in his own kingdom, and even his own son, have turned against him. He often finds himself surrounded, outmanned, and to his own dismay battles a new giant of fear within.

So where does he turn to slay such a giant, internal foe? Where should we turn to slay the giant, unexpected foes that rise in new seasons of life? He turns to the Gospel and he turns to prayer, and so must we do the same.

He finds the Lord to be sufficient for the foe of fear just as he found the Lord to be sufficient for the foe of a Philistine giant. For this battle, however, his weapons are not a sling and some stones, but the Gospel and prayer.

The sweet promises of the Gospel are not for new birth alone, they are also for facing every temptation and trial in this life. And prayer is the means of clinging to those rich promises in the face of any formidable foe to our faith.

(2) Whatever our struggle may be in our present season of life, the pattern of Psalm 27 is the pattern for us to follow.

Every season of life presents us with new struggles of faith.

-For the children and students - one of our greatest struggles in this young season of life is against our inborn nature of stubborn, rebellious pride. We often resist the God-given authorities over our lives. We often fail to see and understand and appreciate that God has given us parents and teachers and pastors and commandments for our good and our joy. That boundaries are for our happiness. That submitting and embracing God's authority over us through His Word and through those He places over us to care for us is where we find true joy and life, and how we glorify God.

-As we move through our teenage years and into young adult life - one of our greatest struggles is against the various forms of lust that seek to envelope our hearts. We are prone to seek pleasure in other places besides the beauty of Christ and the glory of God. We grow overly occupied with our appearance and our acceptance among our peers, with finding fulfillment in physical involvement and relationships, and with entertainment. We miss God's best by filling our hearts with lesser things.

-As we move into adulthood we face the struggle of materialism by relentlessly pursuing things that we are convinced will make us happy in life. Only to discover at some point that the picture-perfect career, marriage, home, and family that we worked so hard to attain is always out of our reach. Mid-life sets in. Our mortality grows ever more apparent. We realize we are not going to attain all of those self-driven dreams. And fear and dismay take hold. Or we discover they simply do not satisfy.

-As we move into our later years of life, comfort and security become our ambition. Rather than utilizing our time, resources, and gifts to further the kingdom of God and invest in eternity, we spend our last years on comfort and ease as if we are not given eternity to do so.

What is your struggle in your present season of life? Is it fear? Then take Psalm 27 as your roadmap for strength. Is it some other struggle, then take Psalm 27 as your pattern for strength.

I. Faith in the Lord is Salvation, and the Salvation of the Lord Cannot Lose (vv1-6)

A) David describes his circumstance in a variety of ways. He says evildoers assail him, he has adversaries and foes, an army encamps against him, war rises against him, he has enemies all around, he has been cut off from family, and false witnesses arise against him.

B) It becomes pretty obvious why fear has so easily settled in his heart. From the human perspective, it's beginning to look like David against the world. What is he to do when it appears as if he has no hope? What are we to do when it appears as if we have no hope? David finds his hope in the Gospel, and he does so in a very specific way.

C) David's assurance of eternal salvation and his anticipation of final salvation gives him complete confidence that the Lord who is saving him eternally will also save him daily.

- 3 components: (1) assurance of eternal salvation, (2) anticipation of final salvation, (3) the Lord who saves eternally will also save me daily
v1 - assurance of salvation - If you belong to the Lord, what can happen?
vv2,3 - the Lord who saves eternally also saves daily - fear-replacing confidence! Where does it come from?
v4 - anticipation of final salvation -
vv5,6 - Because he knows God is saving him eternally, he has every bit of confidence that the Lord will save him daily.

II. Therefore the Faithful Pray Because of the Lord's Salvation and For the Lord's Salvation (vv7-12)

A) This relation between eternal salvation and daily salvation appears again in how David now prays. Because the Lord is saving him eternally, he can have complete confidence in asking and believing the Lord will save him from his daily trials. If the Lord is going to save him eternally, He will then, by necessity, keep him daily. God will either deliver him from this trial, sustain him in this trial, or use this trial as the means to bring him home. Whatever way the Lord chooses to save him from this daily trial, the Lord will, in the end, save him.

1. vv7-10 - David is praying for salvation to the God who is his salvation. He is praying for help on this day based on the fact that God is

his salvation every day. He is praying for salvation in this trial based on the fact that God is his salvation.

B) This is how David prays - he puts his temporary, momentary, earthly trials in perspective to his eternal salvation in God. When he looks at his trial, he looks upward to his salvation. When he is looking at his salvation, it gives him strength for his trial, faith over his fear. He prays for temporal salvation within the larger context of his eternal salvation. That's where he finds fear-conquering faith!

C) 3 things that David specifically prays for in this particular trial.
vv11,12

1. He prays for the Lord to teach him. There must be something in this for David.

2. He prays for the Lord to lead him. David knows that when we are under pressure there is the real danger that we will veer off course.

3. He prays for deliverance.

D) So he has turned to the Gospel in vv1-6, he has then turned to Gospel-driven, gospel-laden prayer in vv7-12...

III. After Prayer Comes Fearless, Faithful, and Faith-filled Waiting (vv13-14)

A) What is he waiting on? He is waiting on salvation. He is not overcome by fear. He is filled with faith. And that is the result of turning to the Gospel and turning to prayer.

B) Notice where he goes in his faith-filled waiting. Now, he's just prayed about his adversaries that are spreading lies about him and are out for his blood. And look where he goes to find rest and resist fear. He goes back to the Gospel - he goes back to his anticipation of final salvation.

C) v14 - is so very, very interesting because David is no longer talking to himself and he is no longer talking to God. In v14 David is speaking to us, the readers.

1. How do you let your heart take courage? You say, "If I could do that I wouldn't be so overtaken with fear."

2. David is saying, "By grace, through faith - you can do that. You can let your heart take courage instead of letting your heart settle for fear." How? By turning to the Gospel and to Gospel-driven, gospel-laden prayer.

Conclusion - If God is saving you forever, He will save you now.