

Psalm 27 — "How to Cultivate a Fearless Trust In God"

We don't want Jelly-Fish Christianity. That's a Christianity a Christianity without bone, or muscle, or power. ... Let us all pray daily for faith and courage to confess Christ before all men. Of sin, or worldliness, or unbelief, we may well be ashamed. We ought never to be ashamed of Him who died for us on the cross. In spite of laughter, mockery, and hard words, let us boldly avow that we serve Christ. Better a thousand times confess Christ now, and be despised by man, than be disowned by Christ before His Father in the day of judgment. (JC Ryle)

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe.

Background to Psalm 27

- David wrote this & the early Jewish interpretation (from the LXX: *The Septuagint*) remarks that it happened *before* he was anointed as public king — so very early in life! *He's a young man!*

THESIS — Ps 27 teaches how to cultivate a *Fearless Trust in God!*

A fearless trust in God requires ...

*A GREAT: **DEFENDER // DESIRE // DESPERATION // DRIVE**

I. A GREAT DEFENDER (1-3)

- God is my light
- God is my salvation
- God is my defense
- God is my confidence/trust

vv.1-3 - speak of a strong confidence in the Lord. Regardless of how great the adversities are, the psalmist looks at the *GREATNESS OF THE LORD* in relation to the insignificance of his own problems.

II. A GREAT DESIRE (4-6)

verse 6 - "I will offer SHOUTS OF JOY" = the Hebrew signifies battle cries of *victory!*

*A note of application from vv.4-6 — when faced with threats and trouble, believers must seek the LORD — especially in the place of **public worship; in God's House!** Why?*

- ✓ *There is great STRENGTH there*
- ✓ *There is great POWER there*
- ✓ *There is great PRESENCE there*
- ✓ *There is great COUNSEL there*
- ✓ *There is great JOY there*
- ✓ *There is great CARE there*

III. A GREAT DESPERATION (7-10)

- This is Emotional! Urgent! Desperate! Rapid-fire petitions to God!
 1. **Hear me! (7)**
 2. **I'll seek you (8)**
 3. **Be near—very near!—to me (9-10)**

IV. A GREAT DRIVE (11-14)

- A. The Prayer (11-12)
- B. The Promise (13)
- C. The Pursuit (14)

The believer's hope & determined drive:

- Hope is an attitude—a disposition, a state of mind—fixed on GOD as the central object.
- God is the ultimate source of hope (God's active strength).
- Hope and expectant waiting on God are most often expressed when humans are particularly aware of their finiteness & God's infiniteness.
- Hope & expectant waiting are linked to people's need to draw upon God's resources (and strength).
- Hope owes much to and relies upon God's many promises. Believers expect God's Words to be unfailing.
- Even when all outward hopes are crushed, an inward hope in God conquers (Ps 39).
- The psalmists (esp in Ps 27) has an audacious certainty & hopefulness about him that seems to be substantiated by **Nothing But God!**

FEARLESS TRUST IN GOD REQUIRES.....

*A GREAT: **DEFENDER // DESIRE // DESPERATION // DRIVE**

What Sustains Missions in the Difficult Places?

Just a day of glimpsing God in eternity is better than many lifetimes of comfort in this world

There is a vision of God's glory so compelling that it inspires going to the hardest places, sustains us through our hardest experiences, and is worth enjoying for all of eternity.

The 10/40 window

World evangelism statistics: Of the 55 least evangelized countries, 97% of their population lives within the 10/40 Window. Unless something changes, huge numbers of these unreached people groups will go out into eternity never having heard the Gospel. Many have estimated that only about 10% of the global missionary force is working there.

Many factors contribute to the spiritual need in the 10/40 Window, including poverty, political instability, and the influence of other religions. Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism are the dominant religions in many of these countries, and Christianity is often viewed with suspicion or outright hostility.

- **Center of population:** Much of the world's population -- more than 4.5 billion people -- live in the 10/40 Window.
- **Unreached and unevangelized:** 90% of the people living in the 10/40 Window are unevangelized. Many have never heard the Gospel message even once. There are either no Christians or not enough of a Christian movement in many cultures of the 10/40 Window to carry out vibrant near-neighbor evangelism. If those groups are to be evangelized, believers will need to leave their own culture and enter another one where they will seek to plant the gospel, perhaps even learning a new language in order to communicate.
- **Poverty:** Eighty-five percent of those living in the 10/40 window are the poorest of the world's poor. The poorest of the 10/40 Window countries are Cambodia, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nepal, Vietnam and Yemen.
- **World religions:** Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism are centered within the 10/40 Window.
- **Least evangelized cities:** Half of the world's least evangelized cities are in this window.
- **Some Statistics on Unreached People Groups:**
 - ➔ 865 million unreached Muslims or followers of Islam [3,000 people groups]
 - ➔ 550 million unreached Hindus [1660 people groups]
 - ➔ 148 million unreached Chinese [in 400 people groups]
 - ➔ 275 million unreached Buddhists [in 900 people groups]
 - ➔ 140 million unreached Animists (tribal groups; in 1,000s of unreached peoples]

O WORSHIP THE KING

O worship the King, all glorious above,
 O gratefully sing His power and His love;
 Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
 Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
 His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
 And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
 Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
 Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

PSALM 27 (The Psalter)

Tune: The Church's One Foundation

My light and my salvation, O Lord, whom shall I fear?
 You are my life's great stronghold when evil men come
 near.

Though enemies attack me, my heart will never fear.
 Though war break out against me, I'm confident you're
 near.

One thing I ask and seek, Lord: to dwell with you
 always,
 To gaze upon your beauty and seek you all my days.
 For in the day of trouble, you'll hide me, keep me safe.
 My head will be exalted; I'll sing and shout your
 praise.

Hear now my voice and answer; be merciful I pray.
 Your face, Lord, I seek daily; do not turn me away.
 For you have been my helper; do not reject me, God.
 Though family may forsake me, I know that you will
 not.

Teach me your way, my Savior; in straight paths may I
 walk.
 Don't let my foes oppress me with false and vicious
 talk.
 Of this I still am certain: I'll see God's goodness yet.
 Wait for the Lord Jehovah; be strong, take heart, and
 wait.