

There is an enemy that is capable of paralyzing any person regardless of who one is or what one has accomplished. That enemy is fear! Sometimes fears are well-founded and other times they are just imagined and invented. But we must make no mistake about this point; fear is a dreaded enemy and it can hit both unbelievers and believers.

A few years ago, 3000 people were polled to determine their greatest fears. The top ten fears were: 1) Public Speaking; 2) Heights; 3) Insects; 4) Financial problems; 5) Deep water; 6) Sickness; 7) Death; 8) Flying; 9) Loneliness; 10) Dogs.

Take a moment and think about your fears. What are they? Fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of heights, fear of sickness, fear of a person, fear of loneliness, fear of loss of a job or reputation. We are living in a time in this country where there are many threatening things that can cause fear. We have political leadership that has lost its moral and financial direction. There is an attempt to eliminate God, His Word, and prayer from the very core of our nation. It really does not matter who we are or what we have, fear is a deadly enemy that is very real.

David knew what it was like to be afraid. David knew what it was like to be insecure. There were many things in his life and world that really did threaten him. But in the midst of his fears he learned a remarkable lesson:

WHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS SECURE, WE MAY BE COMFORTED AND COURAGEOUS IN KNOWING THAT GOD WILL PROTECT US AND DEFEND US AND WE NEED NOT FEAR ANY THING OR ANY ONE.

When David was faced with all kinds of insecurities in life, the one thing he was secure about was his relationship with God. It was that relationship that enabled him to live his life with victory over fear. **The key to a security in this life is to be secure in our relationship with God.**

You and I will be faced with all kinds of insecurities in our world. But if we are secure in our relationship with God, we will discover that we will have victory over our fears.

This text breaks down nicely into four simple themes:

THEME #1 – Who the Lord was to David. **27:1**

This opening verse is important because it shows us what David believed about God and how he viewed God. He describes God in three ways:

Way #1 - God was David's light .

When things were dark in David's world, the one constant light source was God.

Way #2 - God was David's salvation .

This is such an important point to grasp when you are afraid; you don't save yourself, God saves you. He is our salvation. When we look at ourselves for salvation, we will be afraid.

Way #3 - God was David's defense .

David relied on the Lord to defend him.

David believed that God was the one directing him, delivering him and defending him. This is why he did not fear or stand in dread of any one or any thing. No matter what the enemy or fear, David had a fearless trust and confidence in God.

THEME #2 – What David saw God do. **27:2-3**

David's confidence in God was not some glazed-eyed wishful emotion, for he had literally seen God deliver him and defend him.

When evil adversaries came against David, David saw them stumble and fall. There had been times when a host of people were out to destroy him, but they had not succeeded. God tripped them up in their own plans. Even when David was outnumbered and in terrible war, God had never failed David and David had developed a great confidence and trust in God.

Spurgeon said that it is a very positive sign when wicked people hate us and don't love us. In fact, he said that their hatred is much better than their love because it proves we are different.

We may observe that war and trouble caused David to sit back and watch God work. David found himself totally relying upon God and God had delivered him time and time again. Therefore, fearful situations were not intimidating to David because he knew God would deliver him. When we have been in battle and seen God come to our rescue, we are not quite as gun-shy of battle anymore for battle gives us an opportunity to watch God protect and provide.

One commentator said if we had actually kept a diary of all things we have seen God do, the number of pages would be "countless." Since we probably have not kept one in writing, it is good to keep one mentally. That is what David did—he remembered what he had seen God do.

THEME #3 – What David asked God to do. **27:4-6**

It is very clear that one of the main things David did when he was afraid was to pray. What I find amazing, however, is what he specifically prayed and asked God to do. He specifically asked God that in the midst of his fears, **God would permit him to maintain his fellowship and his worship in the house of the Lord.** He was often some fugitive on a mountain, but he longed to be at the place of worship.

David learned that this was a major key to not being afraid. He wanted to fellowship with God and to do that he knew he needed to, as it were, go to the tabernacle to hear the Word of God and think about the things of God. He wanted to be able to go to the house of the LORD “all the days of my life.” This man had a heart for God and His place of worship.

Now notice from **verse 4** that David asks God that he will always seek to go the house of the Lord all the days of his life. This is not an automatic guarantee that one will do this. May I be so bold to suggest that it will be those who regularly attend worship services who will ultimately develop a fearless trust and confidence in God. It will not be the sporadic worshipper or church attendee who will have this confidence, but the one who has developed a close intimate fellowship with God and a consistency of worship.

John Phillips said, “If we have no love for the meeting place of God’s people, no passion to be there, then there’s something radically wrong with our belief” (*Psalms*, p. 205).

Notice the pronouns in these verses “I,” “me,” and “my.” David was pretty much alone, but what he discovered was by cultivating a deep personal relationship with God, his fears vanished.

You will not find too many people, who are surrounded by enemies and pressures and problems, desiring to maintain an intense worship of God; but those who do will have a fearless confidence and trust in Him that will actually leave them “singing” (**27:6b**).

THEME #4 – What David desired from God. **27:7-12**

There are seven things David specifically desired from God:

Desire #1 - David desired that God would listen to him when he cried. **27:7a**

Why should God listen to anyone? Notice the next desire.

Desire #2 - David desired that God would be gracious to him when he cried. **27:7b**

David appeals to the fact that God is a gracious God, a God of amazing grace.

Desire #3 - David desired that God would not hide his face from him. **27:8-9a**

The idea of God hiding His face is the idea of God shutting off His blessings and favor and not answering anymore prayer. David believed this was a possibility.

Desire #4 - David desired that God would not turn away from him in abandonment . **27:9b-10**

David had depended on God many times and God had always helped him. He never wanted God to stop helping him so he prayed about it.

He had always looked to God for help and he never wanted God to abandon him. It is true that God has promised He will never leave nor forsake His people, but he can make things so rough His people think He has.

Joseph Exell writes: “There is a notion in many minds that because God is love, he must love all alike—as he dispenses rain and sunshine to all alike—good and bad, lovely and hateful; and that because He is just, he must treat all alike. Such views can be upheld neither from Scripture nor from common sense. Justice lies not in treating all alike, but in treating each according to character and conduct. Love that can see no fault is as blind as hate that can see no goodness. A face that wears the same bland meaningless smile to every one is intolerable. To suppose that God has no more approval and love for a Christian mother training her child to love him, or a Christian martyr dying for truth, than for a seducer, a thief, an assassin, is to deny God’s moral character. It is to substitute an idol of fancy for the living God”
(*The Book of Psalms*, pp. 200-201).

Now usually the subject of potential abandonment shows up in regard to the lost world that is so alienated from God that He abandons them. But this text shows that it is possible for God to get so disgusted that He stops helping and blessing His own people. Wise spiritual people understand this point.

It is interesting to note that when we carefully study the Scriptures, it becomes clear that God does typically abandon hypocrites for their professed goodness, but He does not abandon someone for their professed badness.

Desire #5 - David desired that God would teach him. **27:11a**

David loved to be taught the Word of God. David loved the Scriptures. He wanted to know God’s Word on every matter. This is a critical key to real spirituality. People who are spiritual want to know God’s Word.

Desire #6 - David desired that God would lead him. **27:11b**

God and His Word will always lead one down a sure-footed level path. From a literal standpoint, for David to be led to a level path would mean he was out of the mountains and out in the open and walking level paths instead of being in the places not level.

Desire #7 - David desired that God would not deliver him to his enemies . **27:12**

Now the enemies of David are called “adversaries” and “false witnesses” and those who are “violent.” The violence would be in opposition to the Word and will of God.

It is clear from **verse 10** that David believed God and trusted in God. David sensed his own father and mother had forsaken him, but not God. We don’t know what prompted David to say this. Perhaps he got word that his father Jesse and his mother had questioned whether or not he was doing right. Some have said perhaps David just learned his father and mother died.

But for whatever reason, he knew he could still rely upon God. Now there are not too many instances in which a father or mother abandons their children, but even if that happens, one who trusts in God may know God will not abandon His own.

According to **verse 13**, David said that if he did not believe in the goodness of God, he would have despaired. David truly and really believed that God would rescue him and this is what gave him his confidence to “wait for the LORD” (**27:14**).

We don't like to wait. We like to figure things out ourselves, but the truth is waiting on God is our only chance. Strength and courage come from waiting on Him and not relying upon ourselves. The assumption of “wait” is that fearful situations, pressures and troubles will not instantly or immediately disappear. But if we are willing to believe God and wait on God and remain faithful to God and stay focused on His Word, we may expect in His time He will deliver us.