



God's Provision for Your Every Need "Victory Over Fear"

Fear is a dangerous emotion. Common fears are the loss of job, fear of old age, or the loss of loved ones. When David wrote Psalm 27, he was facing a formidable enemy. Just imagine for a minute: The king of the nation, Saul, gathered his military and left government business just to hunt down one man, David. It would be an understatement to say that David was tempted to fear. Yet, time and again, we see David as a man who never gave in to his fears. It is okay to be tempted to be afraid, but it is another thing to give in to that temptation. Psalm 27 examines David's experience overcoming fear and illustrates for us how we can become victorious over fear when we trust God.

As we study Psalm 27, we will divide it into four sections. The first section is Psalm 27:1-3 and it holds a warning for us. The second section is verse Psalm 27:4-6; it illustrates how worshiping God was the secret of David's victory. The third section, Psalm 27:7-12, is David experiencing God in everyday life. The fourth section in Psalm 27:13-14 depicts David waiting upon the Lord.

In Psalm 27:1-3, the psalmist warns that those who put their trust in God do have enemies. If you are a believer who is trusting in the power of God to save you and you walk with God, you have enemies. The true prophets of God always aroused opposition. The early Church experienced pressure and persecution from the organized religion of the day. Read Matthew 10:32 and the rest of that chapter. The warning is this: If you are a believer who puts your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and you try somehow to avoid persecution, you are going to end up compromising the truth or hiding your light.

It is impossible to escape opposition and persecution if you have made a stand for Jesus Christ. There is one thing we often forget in spiritual warfare. Enemies that are made of flesh-and-blood are not our real enemies. They are a front for the real enemy. They are a mask where the real enemy, Satan, hides. That is why the Apostle Paul affirmed that our enemies are not of the flesh-and-blood variety. Our real enemies are the spiritual forces of wickedness; they are unseen powers and the principalities. If you are an alert Christian, the devil will find it very hard to draw you out and defeat you. If you are hiding in the Rock of Ages, he's going to have a hard time. If you are a praying and praising Christian, Satan is going to have a hard time directly enticing you. If you are a Christian who loves the Word of God and you accept it as the only truth, it is going to be hard for him to bring doubt into your life.

Here's how he operates: He roams around trying to find an opening and then he uses that opening to attack you. He will attack your character. He will attack your motives. He will attack your sincerity. He will misinterpret your actions and your words. The natural reaction when that happens is to react to the individual who attacked us. Our hearts begin to burn with anger. Anger becomes bitterness and then bitterness becomes hatred and you begin to hate the person who attacked you. You start to resent and despise that person. You lose your joy. Your praise life becomes non-existent. Your spiritual walk suffers and you start to fake it in your spiritual walk with God. You put on a front.

You may be saying, "What should I do?" What you need to do is to go back to where you started. Examine what happened to you. Realize that you hate the wrong enemy. Whoever hurt or attacked you is really the bag man for the mafia boss. They are just delivering the devil's mail

and you are the recipient of it. Whether they know it or not, they are being used as a tool of Satan. When you truly understand this, you will never be able to hate anybody, even those who have wounded you deeply and may have threatened your very life. David's enemies literally wanted to devour his flesh. When you recognize your real enemy, you won't hate people, you will pray for them as Jesus said to in Matthew 5.

In verse 3, David warns that the enemy can come and set up camp, beginning a long siege of oppression and attack. However, for David this siege was futile because his trust was in God and He was going to protect him. David's enemies were so vicious that they would have devoured him if they could have. Even so, they were not as big of a threat to David as they hoped to be because David's confidence came from his utter dependence upon God who was his salvation, his light, and his strength.

You may notice that salvation and light are together. God as the symbol of light is very important to understand. The sun, which is the natural source of life, is compared with God in Psalm 84:11. No wonder the ancient pagan world worshiped the sun. They looked at it as the source of light and the source of life. They worshiped the creation rather than the creator. However, God is our light and He is the one who enlightens our minds. You must remember that the person without Jesus Christ has a darkened mind.

Until the gospel of Jesus Christ comes into a person's life and enlightens them, they are not able to see truth. It does not mean that we must cease debating or presenting the biblical point of view but we must understand that in our mind's eye there is a light bulb that must be turned on to understand it. Only Jesus turns the light on, because He is the light of our salvation. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

When the enemy attacks us, God's strength is available to us. He is our stronghold—a fortress the enemy cannot penetrate. What does God do when His children come to Him when they are under attack and cry, "Lord, help!" He shields us. He puts a fortress around us. He protects us. That was the secret of David's fearless confidence.

David did something else that gave him confidence in the midst of fear; he worshipped God. David knew that the secret of victory on the battlefield started on his knees. It doesn't mean that you don't go out and face the enemy. It means you pray before you act because you understand that is the secret of your victory. Paul said, "But one thing I do.." (Philippians 3:13). Jesus said, "Martha, Martha...you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed" (Luke 10:42). In this psalm, David is saying that one thing is calling upon the power of God. You can do all the protesting and lobbying you want to do. Unless you learn the secret of spiritual warfare, you are no better activist than the people who are on the side of evil. You have something they will never understand. You have something that they can never have until they turn to Jesus Christ and submit to Him, worshiping the Almighty God and falling before Him on their faces.

In David's day there was no temple. God said, "Because of the blood on your hands, you will not build the temple; Solomon will." That is why verse five is so magnificent, "For in the time of trouble, You shall hide me in the pavilion. In the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me." In the Eastern desert, when you come into a chief in the Bedouin's tent, you are safer in his tent than in any fortress in the world because the resources of your host are at your disposal. His military defenses are yours. The tabernacles were in a tent at that time and that is why David said, "When I come to Your tent, O God, I know that I am protected. I know that I can come and worship You and I know that You are going to receive me and give me strength."

David could not enter into the Holy of Holies because he was not a priest. Did you know that in Christ we have been made priests by the blood of Jesus Christ and therefore we have

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access to the Holy of Holies? What David longed for is ours but we take so little advantage of it. We don't understand it and we tarry before the Lord for just a few minutes before we run off into our busy world. If you are being defeated in the battles of life, I promise you it is because we have not learned to get on our knees in our prayer closets.

If you want to be a successful spiritual warrior, you'd better learn to be a successful worshiper. When we look and behold the Lord, He will lift our heads above our enemies. "But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me, my glory and the lifter up of my head" (Psalm 3:3). Those who trust the Lord can lift up their heads—not in arrogance, not in pride, but to the glory of God the Father. Victory on the battlefield is first won in the prayer closet.

Beginning at verse seven to the end of Psalm 27, there is a change of atmosphere. David moves from worshipping in the tabernacle to walking. He goes from the mountaintop experience into the valley. He returns to the humdrum of life. We can't stay on the mountaintop forever. We have to descend into the valley and share the glory of God with others. It is one thing to see the glory and the beauty of God in the house of worship but it is equally important to be in His presence in your kitchen, in your boardroom, or in your business meetings. The lesson that David is teaching us today is that when you are facing the everyday moments of life, it is just as much a time to call upon the Lord as when you worship Him on Sunday.

In verse eight David tells us to be sensitive to the voice of God and when He speaks, we must immediately respond to Him. Be sensitive to the voice of God whether you are driving your car, pushing a shopping cart or scrubbing the floor. Whatever your walk in life may be, you can walk with God every day like you do in Sunday worship. As we walk the path of life, we need direction and guidance and that's exactly the burdens of verses eleven and twelve. David says, "Teach me, lead me, deliver me." Why do we seek the guidance of God in everything we do and in every decision we make? Because the enemy is always present. He is ready to trip us up all the time. When we genuinely ask God to lead us, He guides us to a level path and a level playing field for the glory of His name.

Finally, in verses thirteen and fourteen, David is waiting. I have to tell you up front that it is a lot easier to preach on the subject of waiting upon the Lord than to do it. Do what I say, not what I do. By nature, I'm an activist. I work hard and I work long and I don't like to be kept waiting. I mean, doctor's offices are not my favorite places to be. I am like the older gentleman who was impatient as he was kept waiting in the sitting room of a doctor until he finally got up and said, "Look, I'll just go home and die a natural death."

In New England there was an outstanding preacher by the name of Philip Brooks. On the outside, Dr. Brooks was poised, calm, and serene, but those who were close to him knew how impatient he was. One day he was pacing the floor like a lion and a friend of his said, "Dr. Brooks, what's the trouble?" He said, "I'll tell you what the trouble is. I am in a hurry but God is not."

There are times when God calls on us and we must respond immediately, but there are times when God calls upon us to wait and He will act on our behalf. God's delays are not God's denials. They are a preparation for the great blessings that He has for us. In verse eleven, David prayed for the will of God, but we must remember that the will of God and the timing of God go together. They are simultaneous. To do the right thing at the wrong time is an act of disobedience. When God says, "Wait," it is because there is work for Him to do, either in us or for us or through us in order to give us the next blessing. It takes as much courage to wait as to war. As we wait before the Lord in worship and as we walk with Him daily, He puts His strength in our hearts as we trust Him while we're waiting.

From verse thirteen on, it is very clear that trusting God and faith in God will see us through. God will not let us down. The world says, "Seeing is believing." The Christian says,

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“Believing is seeing.” In the Christian life, waiting is not necessarily inactivity or a waste of time. For Christians, waiting is a time of preparation for the next battle and the next blessing, so as we wait, we pray. As the wise sailor repairs his sails in calm weather, the wise soldier gathers strength during the lull in the battle. “They that wait on the Lord,” said Isaiah “shall renew their strength.” The ability to calm our soul and wait before God is the most difficult thing in the Christian life. It really is. Our old nature is always in a hurry. It’s always restless. Our world is running frantically around us. Even some of our Christian friends look down at us and think we are back-sliding if we are not running from seminar to convention to conference. Have you noticed that as we have increased our seminars and revivals we seem to get further away from genuine Holy Spirit revival? The Holy Spirit is not going to come and bring a revival to a bunch of activists. Worship God, honor God, and seek God. I believe God can help us conquer fear if we learn to worship, walk and wait. A restless heart leads to a reckless life, because not all religious activities are necessarily ministry. Some of these activities could be tearing down instead of building up. Psalm 62:5-6 says, “Find rest, O my soul, in God alone. My hope comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation. He is my fortress. I will not be shaken.”

As you bow before the majesty of God, ask yourself this question: Am I running around doing good things in order to buy God’s pleasure, or am I obediently bowing before Him, recognizing that He and He alone is the secret of my victory? I would challenge you today to understand what David is trying to tell us. He gives us a warning, reveals the heart of a worshipper, he tells us what to do when we are walking, and he teaches us to wait. Ask the Lord to penetrate the veneer of your heart so you may have true victory in Christ.

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