

Small Group Guide
THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND SALVATION

Cleary Baptist Church, March 6, 2011, Psalm 27

Psalm 27...

This psalm is ascribed to David, evidently written in a time of danger. It may have been prompted by the help provided by Ahimelech the priest, and the opposition of Doeg the Edomite, who saw David at the tabernacle and later reported him to Saul (cf. 1Sa 21:1- 10; 22:9). This was also a time when David sought protection for his parents (cf. 1 Sam 22:3) which may have left David feeling abandoned.

The first part of the psalm expresses his confident trust in the LORD for blessings received in the past, and his desire to dwell in the house of the LORD who will protect him in the future (1-6). In the second part David offers an anxious plea for God's mercy and deliverance from his enemies (7-10). It ends with a confession that he would have lost heart without faith in God's goodness, and an exhortation to wait on the Lord for strength and courage of heart (11-14).

Study the Text...

Confidence in the Lord: David expressed great confidence in the Lord. The Lord was his light, salvation and stronghold; therefore he did not fear what his enemies could do to him. He could have fearless trust in the Lord. David further expressed his confidence in the Lord by his longing to dwell in His house. He would love to abide there all his life, to enjoy His beauty and to seek Him there in the temple. To dwell in the presence of the Lord would add to David's security. The Lord would keep him safe in the day of trouble and establish him securely in danger. Consequently he would triumph over his enemies and joyfully sing praises to the Lord. Perhaps the idea of safety in the sanctuary, where his enemies could not reach him, caused David here to meditate on the Lord's protection.

Read Psalm 27:1-6

- What does David mean when he says the Lord is his "light"?
- How is the Lord David's "salvation" and "stronghold"?
- Why are these characteristics of God so important to David?
- What difference do these characteristics of God have on David's perspective of his current situation?
- What did David earnestly desire of the Lord? (verse 4)
- Why did David desire such fellowship with God? (verse 5)
- How would David respond to victory over his enemies? (verse 6)

Group Discussion...

- What are the greatest sources of fear in your life?
- What is your normal pattern for responding to these fears?
- How does the fact that the Lord is your “light”, “salvation” and “stronghold” help you respond to these fears?
- In what ways have you previously experienced the Lord as your “light”, “salvation” or “stronghold”?

Study the Text...

Earnest Prayer in Faith

Apparently the Lord was not promptly granting David’s request for protection. He asked the Lord not to forsake him since he was in great need. God had instructed the righteous to pray and that is what David was doing. Therefore, God ought not refuse to help him. David also affirmed that he was the servant of the Lord, and that the Lord had been his Helper. In light of this David begged the Lord not to reject him. His prayer was strengthened by the knowledge that the Lord would not forsake him, even if his parents did. Read Psalm 27:7-10

- How does this passage relate to the previous passage (Psalm 27:1-6)?
- Why did David hope for the Lord to hear his prayer and have mercy on him?
- Who would take care of David when he was forsaken by his parents?
- Why do you think David changes his tone from verses 7-9 to verse 10?

Group Discussion...

- Can you sympathize with David’s frustration in this passage? Please explain.
- Have you ever felt like God has forsaken you and isn’t answering your prayers? How did you respond?
- How are you able to maintain trust in God during those times when He appears to be silent?

Study the Text...

Wait for the Lord

David asked God to teach him the way to go because his enemies were lying in wait for him. He asked not to be turned over to his enemies, who were false witnesses sworn to destroy him. In the end, however, David's confidence resurfaces; he rejoiced in the prospect of waiting for the Lord. David was confident that he would survive and remain alive to see God's blessing. Therefore he strengthened himself to wait for the Lord's deliverance.

Read 27:11-14

- What difficulties was David experiencing in these verses?
- What did David ask for when enemies and false witnesses rose against him?
- What prevented David from losing heart?

Group Discussion...

- Describe a time in your life in which God brought about deliverance in His own timing?
- Why do you find it difficult to wait for the Lord in times when you desire immediate deliverance from some present difficulty?
- Belief in the Lord's "goodness" caused David to patiently wait for the Lord even when times were difficult. How has the Lord's goodness helped you to patiently wait for the Lord in similar situations?