

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 27:1-14 (NASB)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?

² When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

³ Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In *spite of* this I shall be confident.

⁴ One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.

⁶ And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me and answer me.

⁸ *When You said, "Seek My face,"* my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek."

⁹ Do not hide Your face from me, Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the LORD will take me up.

¹¹ Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a level path Because of my foes.

¹² Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.

¹³ *I would have despaired* unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalm 27: Trust in the Lord and Do Not Fear

David affirmed that the Lord was his light and his salvation. "*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*" Combining "**light and salvation**" is very significant. God is the very source of our spiritual life. Nothing else can fill His place. There is no substitute for the very life of our souls. In Christ Jesus, God in all His fullness has come to us. Our responsibility is to seek Him; His responsibility is to keep us safe.

Having God as his light and salvation, David could rest in God. Because he trusted the Lord, he lived above earthly fears. Fear, in itself, is an enemy. It is good to remember

that fear is never from God; it has another source. ***“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).*** ***“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).***

Fear causes people to act in an adverse manner toward God and others. Many of our physical, psychological, and spiritual health problems could be eliminated if we could do away with the element of fear. Take pen and paper and make a list of the fears with which you are obsessed: your health, your family, your job, your security for the future. Spread those before the Lord and seek their removal. It won't be easy. After all, you have allowed their presence for some time. Believe God for deliverance. Fear is an enemy that wars against us and encamps about us. Desire to seek the Lord, love His house and behold His beauty. Life will take on new dimensions as we learn of Him. How blessed it is to have a friend in God. God is a friend in adversity. He does not always deliver His people out of trouble, yet He delivers from the despair of trouble.

David's one desire was to be in God's presence, poetically stated in [verse 4](#). David wanted to spend time with God, beholding the ***“beauty of the Lord.”*** This is not a glance but a gaze. It is spending time in the presence of your lover; there is no rush to get away. If you could begin to know how much you are loved by God, you too would seek after a relationship of lingering in His presence. God becomes a place of shelter, a hiding place ([verse 5](#)). Apart from God, there is no place to hide—no secret pavilion into which we may run.

Beginning in [verse 7](#) the psalm changes tone. David had fixed his thoughts on God's grace and promise. The result was a deep sense of joy and exultation. Mindful of himself, he was brought to his knees in earnest prayer. ***“When You said, ‘Seek My face,’ my heart said to You, ‘Your face, Lord, I will seek.’”*** These brief words include God's invitation to man and man's response to God. In love, God calls us to action. It is up to us to respond in faithful commitment and act immediately, without compromise.

In [verse 9](#) David petitioned for God's favor. He remembered past experiences of love and prayed for help and future hope. God's precious promises of faithfulness and truth cannot be forgotten. No matter who else forsakes you, God will not. ***“When my father and my mother forsake me”*** is one of the most painful signs of desolation. Parents can forsake either by death or desertion. ***“Then the Lord will take care of me.”*** God's love is beyond the care of the most thoughtful father and of the most loving and tender mother. God will never leave us or forsake us. ***“Teach me”*** and ***“lead me”*** was David's prayer ([verse 11](#)). He desired to be led in God's way. The enemy is always observing the people of God and David desired to be a consistent witness of God's faithfulness. Even if false witnesses spew untruthful cruelty, God knows the truth ([verse 12](#)). God's characteristics of goodness ([verse 13](#)) and perfect timing ([verse 14](#)) gave David confidence. The psalm ends with this counsel, ***“Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!”*** To wait on the Lord is to serve Him in all circumstances. Wait courageously, trustfully, and submissively.