

The Lord is My Light and My Salvation

By Gaye Moss

Have you ever felt that all-out war has broken out against you? King David understood war. He experienced it throughout his life. He faced Goliath in his youth. He battled the Philistines for years. On more than one occasion King Saul tried to kill him. For most of David's life he was at war with someone. Yet, he was able to pen the powerful words recorded in Psalm 27, declaring his faith in an all-powerful God who had proven Himself faithful regardless of the circumstance.

God is our light and our salvation, and therefore, there is never a reason for us to be afraid. He is our secure refuge both day and night. When we come into genuine relationship with Him, He becomes our strong defense no matter how big or how small the struggle or the attack of our enemy.

Powerful Declarations of Faith From Psalm 27

1. The Lord is My Light and My Salvation.

David makes powerful declarations in Psalm 27 regarding his confidence in the Lord. He begins by saying:

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident (vs. 1-3).

These are remarkable words. When we have God's light, there is no reason to fear the darkness. When He is our salvation, there is no reason to fear defeat. God will light our way, providing insight and direction, and He will protect us. The Hebrew word translated **strength** (Strong's, 4581) in verse one also means "a fortified place." David is proclaiming that the Lord is a secure refuge. In these verses, David declares his faith in the One who is willing and able to provide all the help that is needed. God will be a secure refuge even if an entire army rises up against us!

Questions: Why do you think that David was so sure that the Lord would save him? What does it mean to you to know that the Lord is your light and salvation as well as the strength of your life?

2. He Will Keep Me Safe in Times of Trouble.

In the following verses we continue to hear the cry of David's heart and his declaration of faith:

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I 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

inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord (Psalm 27:4-6).

David's one request was to dwell in the presence of the Lord all the days of his life. He knew that there was safety and security in God's presence. In pondering David's request in verse four, a question arises: "How do we behold the beauty of the Lord?" David knew. He had beheld the beauty of the Lord. David was a worshiper, and it seems likely that it was during times of praise and worship that he experienced the beauty of God.

Praise enables us to enter into the beauty of the Lord's presence. When we enter the beautiful presence of the Lord, our enemies are defeated. When we are in God's presence, we are lifted above the attack of the enemy, and all that matters is the awesomeness of God.

Questions: How important is praise, worship, and prayer? Have you experienced the beauty of the Lord's presence in times of worship or prayer?

3. The Lord Will Take Care of Me.

In the following verses David continues to cry out to the Lord saying:

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek." Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me (Psalm 27:7-10).

Here David is crying out for the Lord to hear him, to help him, and not reject him. Then he declares that the Lord will take care of him even if his father and mother forsake him. Why was there such an immediate turn in his thoughts? The Spirit of the Lord heard David's cry, and He immediately gave David the anointed answer: "*The Lord will take care of me.*"

In verse eight, the Lord asked David to seek His face. The face of God *is* His presence. It is up-close and personal. When we get up-close and personal with God, we will experience His amazing love, and He will teach us His ways.

God will never forsake us. He is faithful all the time. We read in Hebrews 13:5-6 from the Amplified Bible:

...He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My old on you)! [Assuredly not!]

So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?

4. I Will See the Goodness and Faithfulness of the Lord.

As we walk in His ways, we will see His goodness and faithfulness. David declares in the following verses:

Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (Psalm 27:11-13).

When we come to the place of face-to-face encounters with our Savior, we can ask Him anything. He longs to teach us His ways. He is on our side, and he wants us to have victory over our enemies. When we ask for His help, He will be faithful. When we ask the Lord to lead us, He will, and He will surround us with protection as He leads us.

5. The Lord Will Strengthen My Heart.

We can be comforted when we see David's declarations of faith throughout the Psalm, and at the same time, his cries for help. God is so gracious. Every time David cries out for help, the Holy Spirit gives him another declaration of faith. In the closing verse of the Psalm he proclaims, "*Wait on the Lord; be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!*" (Psalm 27:14).

Questions: Are you seeking the face of God? Have you seen Him turn discouragement into confidence as you have entered into His presence?

Lesson Application: Begin to make the same declarations of faith that David makes in this Psalm. Begin to declare that God is your light and your salvation. Confess that He is your strength and your secure refuge. All through Scripture there are powerful promises and declarations of faith. Paul said in Philippians 4:13: "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" This is basically the same declaration that David makes in Psalm 27.

Make a fresh commitment to have face-to-face encounters with God. Seek those times when you can encounter God up-close and personal. Pray, "God I want to have personal encounters with You today." Ask God to bring fresh light and fresh revelation into your walk with Him. Give Him permission to take control of every area of your life.

Conclusion: A number of years ago I visited with a young wife and mother who was so discouraged that she did not know where to turn or what to do. She had begun to question whether God was real, even though she had asked Jesus to be her Savior at a young age, and she had attended church all of her life.

One day while sitting alone in her living room she cried out to God. She said, “God if you are real I have to know.” At that moment, she felt the warmth and love of God come all over her. She had her own face-to-face encounter with God, and her life was radically changed. She came to know the love of God in a very real and tangible way, and it changed everything.

Our answers may not come this quickly, but we can always know that God will reveal Himself to us as we seek Him. As we continue to make our declarations of faith in Him, we will experience our own sweet Holy Spirit revelations.

(All Scripture quotes are taken from the NKJV of the Bible.)