

Faith Fighting Past Fear

Psalm 27

Pastor Guy Gray

“Of David”

David is the author of Psalm 27. He is one of the most intriguing of all the personalities in the Bible. David was a warrior and a king. Yet David was also a musician and a writer of Psalms. David was bold and strong and also knew how to pour out his thoughts and emotions—his very heart to God in prayer and worship. This is what makes David so special. He learned how to connect all the details of his life with his relationship with God. He learned to bring his life to God in faith through praise and prayer. He did all of this without withdrawing from the real world into some monastic life of contemplation. He stayed in the battle, he stayed in the fight—100% throughout his whole life. David is the model of a person who has learned to find strength beyond his own strength, through his faith in the LORD.

A Catalogue of Troubles

When we read Psalm 27, we are introduced to a whole catalogue of troubles. There are enemies, foes, armies, and wars! There is betrayal and false witnesses and abandonment by father and mother. Then there is fear—pressing in, relentlessly through all these other threats. Fear is the common denominator that comes with all the different kinds of troubles. Fear can be paralyzing and consuming. Fear robs us of our joy and drains us of our energy. David knew what it was to feel the grip of fear, but he also knew what it was like to fight past the fear through faith.

“One Thing Have I Asked”

The amazing thing is that in the midst of all the “trouble” David turns to God with one primary request. His request is not what we expect. In the shadow of all of his fears, David prays that he may “Dwell in the house of the Lord, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, and inquire in his temple” (verse 4.) It is David’s poetic way of saying that above all other things he wants to see God more clearly and know him more deeply. Amazing! This is the best thing of all about David and his remarkable life of faith. David knows that the only way to fight past fear is to see more of God. This is the central point of Psalm 27 and a powerful lesson for our own lives.

Knowing God Deeply

David knows God deeply. You can tell by his ready description of God’s loving and saving character. The Lord is my “light” and my “salvation”, the Lord is the “stronghold” of my life (verse 1.) “When my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in” (verse 10.) For the entire catalogue of troubles in David’s life, he has an even greater catalogue of the wonders of who God is in his life. Note that David gets personal: “MY light, MY salvation.” This is the way that David fights past his fear through faith. What a wonderful example for us to follow as we too fight the good fight of faith in this troubled world.

Be Strong and Take Heart—Wait Upon the Lord!

The Psalm ends with a challenge to each of us. The challenge is to wait upon the Lord and find His strength for our lives. The Psalm shows the way to do this. The choice is ever up to us. It is, above all, a matter of focus. Will it be troubles or the LORD? It is only through real, personal heart—level prayer that we can win this battle. Like David, we must decide to be warriors of the heart, bringing all of life to God in prayer and praise. So be strong and take heed! Wait upon the Lord!

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

This week, spend some time reading and praying through Psalm 27.

Fear and Troubles

In Psalm 27, as in many other Psalms, David is comfortable coming to the Lord with his struggles, fears, doubts, even complaints. What are the troubles you face today? What is causing fear in your life? Have you brought those things to the Lord? Why or why not? With Psalm 27 as your guide, bring these things to the Lord.

Perfect Love Drives out Fear

We see in this Psalm, the heart of David in the face of struggle—he longs more deeply after God. David responds to trouble by leaning into the Lord. To what extent has this been your response to the troubles of life? Read 1 John 4:16b-18. What kind of fear is John talking about in this text? What are the benefits of “living in the love of God?”

Coming Up:

TODAY

All Church Services move
to River West Lake
Grove @ 9am, 11am &
5:30

Note: No 10am Service

MONDAY 7/16- FRIDAY 7/20

Jr. High Summer Camp
@ Camp Bradley
Leave from RWLG @ 10am
See Josh for details

SATURDAY 7/21

Ministry Prayer Time
8-9:15am @ RWLG

FRIDAY 7/27

Jr. High School Swim &
Movie Night, 6:30-
11:00pm @ Greentree
Pool & RWGT
See Josh for details

SATURDAY 7/28

River West Families
Beach Day at Cannon
Beach Contact Lindsie
or Anne for details.

SATURDAY 8/4

All Church Picnic
East Waluga Park @

Noon -5pm

Cover Photo:

Praise the Lord that River West Church can be one community worshipping together. Join us in thanks and prayer as we continue to seek ways to draw our community together in unity and shared encounters of Jesus, the Risen Lord!