

May 3, 2026

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ²When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. ⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. ⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you,

"Your face, Lord, do I seek."⁹Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in. ¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. ¹²Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. ¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! ¹⁴Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

“God has given us in his word that gracious command or invitation, ‘Seek ye my face’.”

-John Calvin

“I need Thee, oh I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee; Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to THEE!”

-Annie Sherwood
Hawks

“God is too wise to be mistaken, and too good to be unkind.”

-Charles Spurgeon



Confidence in the Presence of God Psalm 27

BIG IDEA: Because of God’s powerful and personal presence for His people, the church can live with confidence, seek His face, and wait with patience in the midst of life’s enemies.

Or to say it more simply, Gospel faith is not just bold confidence but also honest dependence.

OUTLINE

A Confident Faith (Verses 1-3)

A Seeking Faith (Verses 4-6)

A Dependent Faith (Verses 7-10)

A Patient Faith (Verses 12-14)

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. Think of a skill you once had — an instrument, a language, a sport. At your peak, you didn't think about it; it was just there. Then time passed. You tried again. The hands hesitated. The words didn't come. Your confidence had quietly slipped.

David knows this feeling. Psalm 27 is him doing the work of getting his confidence back — not pretending to feel steady but talking himself back to what he knows is true. Has your confidence in God ever felt like something you once had but couldn't find when you needed it?

2. Verses 1–3 picture enemies, armies, and war. What are the enemies pressing in on you right now?

3. What do verses 1–3 tell you God provides — not just sometimes, but at all times?

4. When life gets hard, what is your first instinct — relief, escape, solutions? How does David's instinct in verses 4–6 compare to yours?

5. In verses 7–10, David is clearly shaken. How does he use what he knows about God to steady what he feels?

6. Read verses 12–14. Where do you see Jesus in David's circumstances? What did Jesus secure for you that David could only hope for?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The poem begins with a confident assertion of the psalmist's faith in God's deliverance (vv. 1–6), continues with a prayer for the Lord to continue to be with the psalmist and teach him the ways of the Lord (vv. 7–12), and concludes by returning to an assertion of confidence and a call for others to exhibit similar faith (vv. 13–14). Some commentators argue that the psalm's origins lie with a person who, believing himself innocently accused, sought asylum in the temple precinct, seeking God's protection against his accusers. Still others find in the psalm a song to be associated with either the king's accession or its anniversary (or annual reaffirmation in a hypothesized new year festival).

-ESV Literary Study Bible

Praise to Jesus – Spend time praising the Lord, who is my light, salvation, stronghold, avenger, surety of my heart, confidence, dwelling place, most captivating vision, wisdom, cover, exaltation, subject of my songs, worthy of sacrifice, the answer that I seek, my home, teacher, the goodness in my life, my land forever, my strength, and my courage. Praise the Lord!

Repent through Jesus –Take time today to confess the times you lost sight of the fact that God provides and when the struggles of life caused you to give in to your instincts to escape, seek relief, or blame—place, instead of relying on God.

Consecration for Jesus –Because of God's powerful and personal presence for His people, the church can live with confidence, seek His face, and wait with patience amid life's enemies. May the Gospel continue to motivate you not just to bold confidence but also to honest dependence on the living God.

FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

These questions are written to aid parents in leading family devotions with their children.

1. In verses 1-6, what images does David use to describe the peace and protection that the LORD provides to His people? (In verse 1, David calls the LORD light, salvation, and the stronghold. In verse 2, he describes the protection that the LORD provides in causing his enemies to stumble and fall. In verse 4, he talked about the protection provided in God's presence in the house of the LORD.)

2. When we are in the dark, how does light help us? Perhaps you can go into a dark closet or room and then turn on a flashlight.

3. In verse 4, how does David express the importance of being in the LORD's presence? What does David want to see and do in the LORD's presence? (David said that this is the "one thing" or the most important thing. David wants to see the "beauty of the LORD" and "to inquire.")

4. If you have older children, ask them this question: what difference would it make in your life to pursue or seek Christ as the most important thing in your life?

5. In verses 7-12, David changes his focus in this Psalm. What does he express or pray in these verses? How do verses 1-6 inform how he prays in verses 7-12? (David cries out for the LORD's help. His confidence in the LORD from verses 1-6 gives him the peace that the LORD will indeed protect him from his enemies.)

6. How does David end the Psalm in verses 13-14? What does it mean to "Wait for the LORD"? (He ends with a description of his faith or trust or belief in the LORD's goodness and protection. Waiting on the Lord means that we trust Him in how and when He will answer our prayers for help.)

Scriptures for further study:

Romans 8:31

Joshua 1:9

Matthew 6:33

Philippians 3:7-8

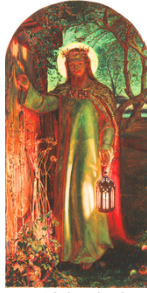
FOR STUDENTS

1. Psalm 27 opens with three bold declarations: the LORD is my light, my salvation, and my stronghold. Which of those three means the most to you right now, and why?
2. In verses 1–3, David says he will not fear even if an army surrounds him. That's not wishful thinking — it's confidence built on something. What is David's confidence actually based on? Where does your own confidence come from when things feel out of control?
3. Read verse 4. David calls seeking God's presence the "one thing" he desires above everything else. Be honest — what is the one thing you actually pursue most in your daily life? What would it look like for that to be God?
4. In verses 7–12, the tone shifts. David, who opened the psalm with bold confidence, now cries out for help and admits real fear of being abandoned. What does it tell you about faith that David can hold both confidence and desperation in the same prayer?
5. Look at verse 10: "For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in." David anticipates the worst kind of human abandonment and says God is still enough. Is that actually believable to you? What would it take for that to be true in how you live?
6. Verses 13–14 end the psalm with a call to "wait for the LORD." Waiting is not passive — it's active trust. Where in your life right now do you need to stop forcing an outcome and actually wait on God? What makes that hard?

FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. In verse 4, David the Psalmist writes, “One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek...” If you were writing this Psalm, how would you have finished verse 4? Does your life have one overriding and single purpose? If so, what or who is it? What would you honestly say is that “one thing” you seek in life?
2. While we may not literally dwell in the house of the Lord (v.4) as Levites or priests might have, how can you live your life with a greater awareness of the presence of God and experience his beauty all day long wherever you are?
3. David must have some particular foes in mind as he writes this Psalm. What are the current challenges and “foes” in your life right now? How would corporate worship better enable you to deal with your external threats you face as well as the internal fears and troubles you may be experiencing?
4. Carefully re-read Psalm 27. This time, take note of all the ways David describes God and tells us not only what he is like (attributes) but also all the things he does for us (actions).
5. One of the main themes in Psalm 27 is trusting in God.
Question: Most importantly, have you put your confidence and trust in God for your salvation and the ultimate security and protection that he provides for our souls? And are you trusting him with your situations and your practical everyday living as well?

The Blessed Life: A Study of the Psalms



"The Light of the World" (1851-1853) by William Holman Hunt

Psalms Introduction

The Book of Psalms is the sacred place where the living God meets His people in the most intimate and personal of ways. He invites them to know Him not merely as an idea, but as their refuge, portion, shepherd, and King. From the opening doorway of blessedness in Psalm 1 to the climactic Hallelujahs of Psalm 150, the Psalter reveals that the truly happy life is one rooted in the person and work of Almighty God, whose steadfast love holds His people through every season of the soul. As the Psalter moves from anguish to adoration, from darkness to dawn, it becomes a mirror of the Christian life itself. It teaches us to pray honestly, to hope stubbornly, and to sing faithfully, even when night seems long. In the deepest valleys, the Psalms give voice to the church's groan; on the highest heights, they train the church's doxology. And in every line, every cry, and every hallelujah, Christ Himself comes near, revealing the light of the world in the dark night of the soul and leading His people into the blessedness that only His grace can give.

– Pastor Bill

About the artwork and artist.

The Light of the World, 1851-1853, is an iconic allegorical painting by William Holman Hunt. The painting depicts Jesus Christ as a regal figure in flowing robes, wearing a crown of thorns, holding a glowing lantern, and preparing to knock on a weed-overgrown wooden door with no external handle. This illustrates Revelation 3:20 from the Bible: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..." The artist William Holman Hunt is showing us that Jesus is the divine door to the living God who meets His people in the most intimate and personal ways. The closed, overgrown door → representing the human soul or "obstinately shut mind" that has long ignored spiritual calling. There is no handle on the outside → the door can only be opened from within, emphasizing free will and personal invitation to faith. The lantern → Christ as the light of the world (John 8:12), illuminating darkness and offering salvation. The work marked Hunt's deepening Christian faith (from earlier agnosticism) and became one of the most reproduced and devotional images of the Victorian era, inspiring oratorios, hymns, and widespread popular piety. It's often called a visual sermon on personal salvation.