

PSALM 27 pt 2
Seek His Face

If you had ONE WISH what would it be???

There's a Sunday morning in church answer and then there's a Monday morning when the real world begins answer.

PSALM 27

A Psalm of Fearless Trust in God.

A Psalm of David.

1 Yahweh is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?

Yahweh 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 Yahweh , that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of Yahweh all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of Yahweh 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 Yahweh .

7 Hear, O Yahweh , 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 Yahweh , 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 Yahweh will take me up.

11 Teach me Your way, O Yahweh ,
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 Yahweh
In the land of the living.

14 Wait for Yahweh ; Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for Yahweh

REVIEW

v. 1-3 David is in SOME SORT OF a crisis

V 4 His desire is to seek Yahweh AND BEHOLD HIS BEAUTY

1.) The fact that there is even a tabernacle speaks to the HUMILITY of Yahweh.

- 2.) The revealed “law” or good instruction is evidence of Yahweh’s Beauty
3.) The altar of sacrifice in the Tabernacle revealed the Beauty of Yahweh in His Atonement

What DAVID DOESN’T DO:

He doesn’t rely on self-help techniques or “look within”YOURSELF psychology”.

David exemplifies the biblical pattern of finding himself rooted in Yahweh, not in some custom, fad, friends, or even family. All of those are fickle.

David doesn’t run off to “find himself”; an early form of defining the world from an interior lens which has rapidly morphed into the identity chaos of our age.

One reason why our culture is “blown around by every wind of doctrine by the trickery of men and craftiness with deceitful scheming” (Eph 4;14) is because our hearts are drawn away by so many other things. Rather than ONE THING that we seek, we are bombarded with constant messages that tell us how to find meaning in this / that, him/her, this cause/that cause, etc.

Finding OUR authentic self has become the mantra of our age.

STRANGE NEW WORLD by Carl Trueman

Charles Taylor in his book, *A Secular Age*, describes the modern notion of selfhood in the West. He specifically connects it to what he dubs “the culture of ‘authenticity,’” which he describes as follows:

The culture of authenticity is one where each one of us has his/her own way of realizing our humanity, and that it is important to find and live out one’s own, as against surrendering to conformity with a model imposed on us from outside, by society, or the previous generation, or religious or political authority.²

In short, the modern self is one where authenticity is achieved by acting outwardly in accordance with one’s inward feelings. Trueman, Carl R.. *Strange New World* (pp. 19-20).

This secular notion of selfhood is in line with the mindset of Judges 21 “every man does that which is right in his own eyes.” THERE WAS NOT A HAPPY ENDING.

Scripture does not deny the VALIDITY of our feelings. It denies the AUTHORITY of our feelings.

Scripture reorients the focus of our feelings from a self-directed solution to a heart oriented toward God...

*Ps 27:13 I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of Yahweh
In the land of the living.*

Ps.94:19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.

Ps 42:5 Why are you in despair, O my soul?

And why have you become disturbed within me?

Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him

For the help of His presence.

Speak biblical truth to yourself, don’t just listen to yourself

Verse 6 - If our hearts delight in God and His face, then we can contemplate losing earthly joys without fear.

Keller, Timothy; Keller, Kathy. *The Songs of Jesus*:

Even if our mother and father forsake us, we can face it (verse 10). Why? If our greatest treasure—communion with the living God—is safe, of what can we be afraid?

Our fears are a pathway to what we value the most at any given time. They are often a red light on the dashboard that points us to an idol of the heart.

V 7-9 When the day of trouble comes, David doesn’t run from God.

He doesn't say, "This old-time religion is oppressive, so we need to deconstruct it and create a spirituality that fits who we are today.

David doesn't run from God, he leans into God
God, not SELF is his non-negotiable.

Today, "self" is the non-negotiable.. This is the opposite of the Wisdom of Proverbs

Prov 3:5 Trust in Yahweh with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

v.8 - "Seek my face"

Elyse Fitzpatrick)

The Lord commanded David to seek his "face" (v. 8). In Hebrew, the abstract thought of someone's presence is always expressed with the word face. **When God invites David to seek his "face," in essence he's inviting him into his presence to spend time with him.** "Seek my face," the Lord requested. But it's actually more than an invitation. It's an imperative, (Elyse Fitzpatrick) Price, Daniel Emery. The Sinner/Saint Devotional: 60 Days in the Psalms (p. 70).

THIS MUST BE INTENTIONAL

CJ Moe - on Fearless June 23rd- I knew 7-8 guys out of 120 on my college team who were outspoken Christians. In that environment if you aren't intentional and disciplined about your faith, you're sunk. This is true for US TOO.

We might ask, "Aren't we always in His presence?" YES and no.

Yes, God is everywhere at all times. His power is always sustaining our lives and the universe.

Yes, God has a special covenantal relationship with his children. He always stands by us - "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "

The more we understand the grace of God, the more we will want to spend time with Him and behold His beauty and His presence.

But sadly, it is all too easy for us to become neglectful of God's presence and give Him little thought during the day. We grow accustomed to His grace, and we forget the weight and significance of His presence. Thus, we find verses like Ps 105:4..."Seek the Lord...seek His presence continually."

EX: you get something new that you really wanted, and it occupies your mind.

EX: Carrabelle, our first dog. I would think about that cute little puppy at work. I looked forward to getting home to play with her, but that would wear off after a while.

Seeking the Lord is a CHOICE, or a series of CHOICES that we make to orient our lives toward Him:

God knows that we can be very forgetful or neglectful, so he warns against it.

HOW DO WE SEEK God?

Personal time with God - THE POWER OF FOUR : at least 4 days a week to develop the habit and priority. I KEEP coming back to getting the Word into our minds and hearts.

Corporate Worship - One day of Sabbath rest was built into the calendar for God's people. That helps us structure our week and our time, our thoughts, and our hearts around God.

Fellowship with believers and admiring God through his creation are ways of directing our minds and hearts toward Him.

OBSTACLES TO AVOID

Every journey has its potential pitfalls.

Edwards – 25. Resolved, to examine carefully, and constantly, what that one thing in me is, which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God; and to direct all my forces against it.

Rom 12:1-3

1Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship*. 2And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Don't "fall asleep on Delilah's Lap" (Colliquy on Rejoicing) i.e. beware of the ease of slowly being conformed to the world.

Falling asleep on Delilah's Lap is a picture of the condition of the soul; it means to forget the nature and power of SIN; it means that we make a truce with sin when God has told us to put it to death.

WHO OR WHAT IS YOUR DELILAH?

It is that attractive thing that is out to destroy you.

It is that person, behavior, activity, thing that you know is dangerous, but you foolishly keep going back to.

The enemy of our souls does not want you to Seek God. He will work to distract you, accuse you, or mindlessly amuse you.

Heb 12 "Let us lay aside every form of sin that so easily entangles us."

Laying aside sin and Seeking God is a communal activity- "LET US". We need each other.

But it is also intensely personal – No one can believe or trust FOR YOU.

V. 13

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

This Psalm represents the yo-yo reality of our spiritual life. This Psalm shows how our lives can move quickly from faith to fear and from fear to faith. We go from resting in God to crying out for His rescue. My guess is that you can all identify with that. I know I can.

David plants his flag OF faith in the goodness of Yahweh. He knew the character of God.

His theology impacted his heart. You may not realize it, but you and I are ALWAYS doing theology. Our joys, sorrows, fears, rejoicings, and worries are pointers to our true heart theology.

We may say we believe one thing, but our hearts may reveal what we really believe.

In a 'Peanuts' cartoon, 1965 Lucy and Linus are looking out the window at a steady downpour of rain.

'Boy,' said Lucy, 'look at it rain. What if it floods the whole world?'

'It will never do that,' Linus replies confidently. 'In the ninth chapter of Genesis, God promised Noah that it would never happen again, and the sign of the promise is the rainbow '

'You've taken a great load off my mind,' says Lucy with a relieved smile.

'Sound theology,' states Linus, 'has a way of doing that!'

Psalm 27 was given to help take a load off our minds and our hearts as we learn to

14 Wait for Yahweh ;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for Yahweh

This is the movement of faith, trust and surrender. David lived it out, not perfectly, but the GREATER DAVID did live it out perfectly.

He had one of those v.13-14 moments in the Garden as he prayed to the Father, “If there be any other way, but not my will but Thy will be done.”

Because Jesus trusted that He too would see the Goodness of God in the land of the living, he gave His life for us.

We COME TO THE TABLE so that our hearts might be strengthened by faith in the goodness of God.

If you are struggling to “Seek His Face” or see His goodness, then consider all that this represents – God’s honest evaluation of our sin is not the final Word. Jesus covers our sin and shame with “It is Finished” as he opened up the land of the Living to a sinful human race that deserved death.

Be strong and let your heart take courage.

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