

Divine Deliverance from Darkness

Psalm 27:1-6

Introduction As the cold of winter begins to ebb into the warmth of spring, we do well to remember that God is with us in the dark, in the cold, when we feel alone. God never promises a season free from trouble, but He does promise His presence and ultimate deliverance to those who trust in Him.

David was a man who well knew danger, despair, and his own heart's depravity. He dealt with opposition from his employer, Saul the King, his siblings who mocked him before his battle with Goliath, and his own family. His wife didn't appreciate his dance moves; his sons, like the prodigal in Jesus' story, were eager to gain their inheritance— and willing to push him off the throne to get it!

David knew the chastening of his Lord's righteous hand after he counted the people in a census that showcased his pride (and perhaps his unbelief). His lustfulness was punished by his offspring whose sexual sins exceeded their fathers as his son raped his daughter and another sibling killed the rapist when "the man after God's own heart" left his vile son unpunished. Even after Absalom's death, yet another son sought to unthroned David before he installed Solomon as his heir in his old age.

This is the psalmist who pens this Psalm that we will meditate on for three Wednesdays. In these weeks, we shall see the Lord delivers (Psalm 27:1-6), the Lord is He upon Whom we Depend (Psalm 27:7-10); and finally we will encourage ourselves to endure the Lord's delay (Psalm 27:11-14).

1. **Delight in Divine Deliverance from the Depths of Darkness (Psalm 27:1-6)**
2. **Depend on Divine Presence in Solitary Circumstances (Psalm 27:7-10)**
3. **Expect Divine Goodness while Courageously Waiting (Psalm 27:11-14)**

1. **Delight in Divine Deliverance from the Depths of Darkness (Psalm 27:1-6)**

This evening, let us consider our great deliverance by God from the depths of darkness.

In the darkness before Creation, God spoke, and there was light (Genesis 1). God Himself is light; there is no darkness in Him. He is all that is good, clean, and pure. There is no iniquity in Him. As created fallen creatures, we were in the darkness of depravity, with no light, direction or life. God's light shone into our lives by Jesus Christ, the Light of the World (John 8:12). Where the world was dark and directionless (John 1), the Light came to speak truth and direct our steps (John 1). Jesus Christ was the Word that spoke, directed, gave life and light to those dead and dark.

1.1. **The Lord delivers from the fear of darkness (27:2)**

I speak generally, in broad universal terms; David did not. His testimony: "*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*" How many of us can testify to our childhood fear of the dark? Did any of you ever fear monsters under your bed or lurkers outside your windows as your house creaked and groaned in the night? Do you remember the fear of being alone in

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the dark? Have you ever walked by night in the dark? Driven down the street with weak headlights? You know the unease, the fear of being attacked by predators human or creaturely. **If you don't have a clue what's going on; be easy! God does!**

1.2 The Lord delivers from the fear of man (27:1-2)

One of the ironies of the Christian life is that it is often those who seek the destruction of the righteous who are themselves destroyed. Proverbs recounts the original Wile E. Coyote scenario of those trapped by their own traps. They set a snare and are ensnared; they plan to hoist huge stones upon their enemies (Job 18:8-9; Psalm 9:16). The innocent and godly are often seen as prey by the wicked, but God grants escape (Psalm 124:7; 140:5; 141:9). The wicked may try to be sneaky, but God is far more subtle than they are (Psalm 142:3). When you are beset by the wicked, rest assured that God is watching (Jeremiah 5:26-29)!

Men may make prey of us, but God ensures that such enemies themselves stumble and fall (27:2)!

1.3 The Lord delivers from the might of men (27:3)

Our enemies may vastly outnumber us, but “you and God make a majority!” Elisha could lead an army into the hands of the king when God's might blinds them.

1.4 Lord delivers sanctuary: He shelters us in the place of worship (27:4-5)

Do you delight to be “among God's wonderful people?” Do you find refuge in worship, prayer, the exhortation of your soul from the Word of God? David did. He delighted to be where God was worshiped. He delighted to find fellowship with God when men sought his life. He found strength, refuge, comfort, and protection in God's presence.

The beauty of God's sanctuary refreshed His soul in the ugliness of life. With all the ugliness and sin in David's life, it is a miracle that the man did not become angry or bitter. By keeping his eyes on God, David could stay sweet and appreciate beauty in the midst of difficulty and the ugliness of sin and strife that comes with living the godly life.

1.5 The wisdom of God directed David. On one occasion, David rescued a city. He then sought refuge there from Saul. Unlike Israel with the Gibeonites who made an alliance without consulting God, David asked if the people of the city would be faithful to their deliverer (himself) or betray him. God told him the people were unreliable; David found safety by seeking the Lord and His wisdom rather than leaning upon his own understanding.

1.6 The Lord delivers His people body and soul: His salvation is the theme of our songs, our prayers, and our testimonies! (27:6). *The Lord is my light and my salvation... I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord!*