

PSALM 27

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? <sup>2</sup>When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. <sup>3</sup>Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident. <sup>4</sup>One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall 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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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 the Lord. <sup>7</sup>Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me. <sup>8</sup>When thou didst say, "Seek my face," my heart said to thee, "Thy face, O Lord, I shall seek." <sup>9</sup>Do not hide thy face from me, do not turn thy servant away in anger; Thou hast been my help; do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation! <sup>10</sup>For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me up. <sup>11</sup>Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path, because of my foes. <sup>12</sup>Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. <sup>13</sup>I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. <sup>14</sup>Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord.

NOTE: The questions on Psalm 27 will be based on the New American Standard Version, which is written above.

Memorize Psalm 27:13-14. (I did it \_\_\_) (Said to \_\_\_\_\_.)

Read Psalm 27 five times. *Write down* one observation from each reading. (Maybe you'll want to begin the day following class to read the psalm through 3 times and make 3 observations and the next day to finish the readings and do the first few questions. Using the gradual method of doing the lesson will keep the psalm in your mind all week. Remember - we're not just trying to get into the psalms - we're trying to get the psalms *into us!*)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Read verses 1-3.

1. David reminds himself of three things about the Lord that encourage him to be confident. What are these three things?

a.

b.

c.

2. In what way is the Lord *your*

a. light?

b. salvation?

c. stronghold?

3. What principle do you see *for your life* by looking at the verb tenses in verse 2 (past) and the verb tenses in verse 3 (future)?

4. Jot down phrases from verses 1-3 *and* the remainder of the psalm that show that the evil threat David faced was real and significant.

Read verses 4-6.

5. In verse 4 David tells of the singleness of purpose in his life.

a. What is it?

b. What does that mean to you?

6. Verse 4 also tells two priorities within that purpose. What are they?

a. to \_\_\_\_\_

b. to \_\_\_\_\_

7. What do each of the above priorities mean to you?

8. Honestly, what do *you* want more than anything else today?

9. From the context, why does verse 6 end with David singing praises to God with joy?

NOTE: In verse 11, a "level path" implies moral rightness and progress rather than comfort.

Read verses 7-10 and 11-12. Notice the relationship between "to behold the beauty of the Lord" in verse 4, and "seek thy face" in verses 7-10. Notice, too, the relationship between "to inquire in His temple" in verse 4 and "thy way" in verses 11 and 12.

10. What action is David taking to accomplish these two priorities in his life? Or, what is he doing in verses 7-12? Does this help *you* and how?

Read verses 13 and 14.

11. Explain David's optimism in verse 13.

12. What is the relationship between "seeing" and "believing" in the Christian life?

13. What is David's:

a. admonition?

b. hope?

14. What do these (above) reveal about his view of God and man?

Notice that at the end of this psalm there is no *miraculous* or *instantaneous* deliverance. Rather we see the psalmist holding on in naked faith, as we may have to do. But he has the assurance that God is worth waiting for. And that is enough.

15. Comment on the connection between “faith” and “patience” as seen here. (It's throughout Scripture, too.)

Often the enemies *within* make us more afraid than those without.

16. What are some you face within and how do the principles of this psalm apply?

17. In a couple of sentences, summarize the main teaching of this psalm.

18. Pray through this psalm, making it your own dialogue with God.