

Psalm 27 - Transformed in Prayer

October 3, 2019

Psalm 27:1-8 ESV Of David.

1 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?

2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

4 One 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 (*chazah - see, behold, gaze, contemplate*) upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire (*baqar - contemplate, inspect diligently, consider, reflect, seek*) in his temple.

5 For 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.

6 And 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.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

- *The priority and focus of our communion, walk and life with God is to know, worship and enjoy Him.*
- *Raise the caliber of your prayer life beyond self-serving to loving and adoring God.*
- *Any fruit that is born, transformation of heart and mind, spiritual power, deliverance from sin, hearing His voice accurately, the knowledge of His will and purposes — all are the direct result of knowing, worshipping and enjoying Him.*
- *In the midst of the battles, noise, attacks, distractions — we must cultivate the ability to separate ourselves from the fray into God's presence to know, worship and enjoy Him. That is when His presence surrounds us like a fortress, that is where our heads are lifted above our enemies.*
- *Our prayer life is powerless when we approach God distracted and self-absorbed with worldly cares, distressing problems, personal agendas, self-willed ambitions and natural desires.*

FROM CONFUSION & DESPAIR TO DIRECTION & PURPOSE

1 Kings 19:1-16 ESV

1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow."

3 Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

- *Miracles do not produce faith, though miracles can encourage faith that has already been birthed by God's Spirit. After experiencing a great miracle of killing 450 prophets of Baal, Elijah was afraid. He did not recover from the fear until he met with and heard God's still, small voice.*

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17 ESV

Luke 16:31 ESV

31 "He [Abraham] said to him [Rich Man], 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

1 Kings 19:1-16 ESV

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat."

6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you."

8 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

9 There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

10 He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.

13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

14 He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

15 And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.

16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ESV

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.