

Victorious Living in a Discouraging World

Psalm 27: 1-6

The time and circumstances of this psalm aren't clearly revealed, but it was written at a time when David was pursued by his enemies. His life was one of great highs and deep lows. Many times David enjoyed the mountain-top of victory, but he also endured deep valleys of despair. There was however, an assuring constant in his life – his relationship with the Lord.

Our lives may not experience the level of intensity that David's did, but at times they can be overwhelming. There is much we don't understand and valleys we don't enjoy, but we can rest in the same assurance David had. It is possible to overcome in an ever changing world. I want to consider the [principles](#) involved in: [Victorious Living in a Discouraging World](#).

I. The Hope of the Believer (1-3) – David reveals that he has a personal relationship with the Lord. He uses the pronoun [my](#) three times in [V.1](#). I can't understand how folks make it through life without the Lord. The Christian has a foundation of hope in Christ. [Jer.17:7 – Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is](#). Let's look at this hope. It is:

A. Built on God's Provision (1) – [The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?](#) David had come a long way from his humble beginnings as a shepherd boy. He had faced giants, fought battles, and enjoyed God's hand of provision. He was well aware that God had brought him to where he currently stood. (God's people need to be reminded of what He has done for us. All that we are and ever hope to be rests in the mercies and provision of God.) So what does David declare that God has done?

- [The LORD is my light](#). He had delivered him from a life of darkness and was guiding his steps. Aren't you glad for His light in your life? Thank God I now walk in the Light.
- God was also his [salvation](#). David had been redeemed from a life of condemnation to a life of forgiveness in the Lord. That alone is reason to rejoice and fill our hearts with hope. We have been saved through the blood of Jesus and received a glorious hope in Him. I'm glad that my hope and eternal destiny doesn't depend on what this world provides!
- [The LORD is the strength of my life](#). He had been in many hostile situations and called upon to perform many tasks that were impossible within himself. God had supplied the strength to overcome. Many times our flesh is weak, but there is strength in the Lord. We've all had those giants come against us that we couldn't defeat, but God supplied the strength to make it through. It was His strength and power that brought the victory.

B. Backed by God's Perimeter (2) – *When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.* Here David reveals times when defeat seemed certain. The enemy had invaded his life with one thing in mind – destroying him. In those times when defeat seemed sure, his enemies stumbled and fell. God had placed a hedge around him in his time of need.

- Aren't you glad for the hedge of God? He allows times of testing and trials, but the enemy can only go so far. There will be times when we feel as if all hope is lost, but God can cause our enemies to fall at our feet. He has set a perimeter that Satan cannot cross! If you are secure within the boundaries God has set, hell may rage, but it will not overcome you!

C. Bound by God's Peace (3) – *Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.* David was a man of war from his youth. He knew the horrors of battle and the fear it brings, but he had learned to trust in the Lord. He was confident in the Lord's ability to sustain him.

- We must learn to trust the Lord in our times of need. We'll never obtain victory if our faith and trust doesn't rest in Jesus. There will be times of difficulty and pain, but God is bigger than the battles we face. Many times past performances are good indicators of the future. We need to learn this principle as it applies to God. Think of all the valleys He has brought you through; the giants He has defeated; the mountains He has moved; the storms He has calmed. God has brought you safe thus far and there is no reason to believe that He would fail us – not now, not ever!

II. The Heart of the Believer (4) – *One thing have I desired 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 behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.* David was a man after God's own heart. He wanted a heart and life that pleased the Lord. There were three things about David's heart that we all need to develop.

A. A Heart of Wisdom (4a) – *One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after.* There was one thing David desired, a continual relationship with the Lord. It would've been easy to desire more victories, a larger kingdom, more wealth and power, but David's focus was right. He desired to build his life upon the Lord rather than the pleasures and gain of this life. He had come to realize that his relationship with the Lord was the most important thing in his life.

- Victorious living requires a heart of wisdom. We must get to the place in life that God is our desire. He cannot take a back seat. He must be the priority and focus of our lives. Many Christians live defeated lives because they don't desire the Lord. They have all of Him they want. We can't

seek Him only on Sunday and expect to overcome the difficulties of life. I don't want to live one day without His presence in my life!

B. A Heart of Worship (4b) – *One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life.* David desired to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. He couldn't bear the thought of life without worship. Being in God's house was special to Him. He desired that time to honor the Lord and enjoy His presence.

- Many today never fully understand the importance of being at the house of God. This is where our souls are fed and encouraged. We need to feed continually at the Master's table. A genuine heart of worship is lacking in our day. Many can come if they want and stay at home if they don't. We'll never enjoy victory without worship. We'll never get to the place that worship isn't necessary. It is the most important activity we engage in all week!

C. A Heart of Wonder (4c) – *to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.* David entered the house of God with a heart of praise and wonder. He wanted to behold God's beauty and enquire at His temple. *Enquire* means to "*inspect, admire, and consider.*" He had never gotten over what the Lord had done for him. He worshiped with a heart of wonder and devotion.

- Many have lost their awe of God. We have forgotten what He has done for us. The church is no longer a place of godly fear and holy reverence. Each time we meet, we need to be mindful of who He is! We need to consider the power and glory of the God we serve. I'll never understand why He loved me so, but I never want to lose my affection and wonder for Him. Let us come seeking to worship Him for all that He is! We are privileged to have the opportunity to come before a holy God and feel His presence.

III. The Hiding place of the Believer (5-6) – David had been blessed with many hiding places from his enemies. There will be times when we need to slip away to our hiding place in the Lord. Our hiding place is:

A. A Protected Place (5) – *For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.* He was hidden in the *pavilion* of God. The king's pavilion was a tent that had been erected in the middle of the army's host. It was protected by the many valiant soldiers that surrounded it, defending their king.

- Consider the hiding place we have in God's pavilion. We are protected by the hand of God. We aren't called upon to defend ourselves, but simply to rest, surrounded by the host of God. Satan may try, but he can't break through God's pavilion!

B. A Precious Place (5) – David spoke of the [secret of His tabernacle](#). This refers to the Holy of Holies where God dwelt. It was a place that few had the right to enter. We as children of God can dwell in His secret place. We can enjoy the presence of God.

- This world knows nothing of God's secret place. They don't have the privilege we do! Kings usually had a secret place in the palace that only invited guests were allowed to enter. Our King invites us to enter His secret place any time we desire!

C. A Preferred Place (5) – [He shall set me upon a rock](#). This was a place of stability; one that stood above the battle that raged below with a great vantage point of the battle and the enemies advance. God's hiding place is a place that is lifted above the battle that rages, a place of peace and safety.

D. A Prominent Place (6) – [And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD](#). David had enjoyed victory over his enemies, being lifted to a lofty position. That is exactly what we have in the Lord today. We belong to Him. It may seem as if the world has gotten the upper-hand, but always remember whose you are. This life is filled with difficulty, but we are victorious in Christ. We may lose a battle now and then, but Jesus secured the victory at Calvary. You are somebody in the Lord.

Conclusion: Are you facing a difficult journey today? Jesus wants you to enjoy the victory in Him. Many times we live defeated lives when we don't have to. The Lord has all that we need to overcome if we'll only trust Him. If you have yet to respond to the call for salvation, come to the Lord as He calls today!