

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF YOUR BATTLES

Psalm 27:1-6 NKJV - **A Psalm of David** - An Exuberant Declaration of Faith

27 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?
²When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes,
They stumbled and fell.

³Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war
may rise against me, In this I *will be* confident.

⁴One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, That will I 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.

⁵For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of
His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me;
Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing
praises to the LORD.

Intro: As I read the words of this psalm, I see the imagery of battle being portrayed in these verses.

Words like “**enemies**” and “**foes**” in verse 2; “**host**” in verse 3; “**war**” in verse 3; and “**enemies**” in verse 6 all speak of warfare.

Phrase like “**though an host encamp against me**”, verse 3; and “**though war should rise against me**”, verse 3 speak of a battle being waged against David.

It appears that he is in a difficult situation.

- Yet, it is also very clear from reading these verses that even in the midst of the battles he is fighting, **David still has hope.**

Hope is a powerful thing

G. K. Chesterton said, “***There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something better tomorrow.***”

Martin Luther said, ***“Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.”***

Here is how the dictionary describes hope -

Hope - ***“to have a wish to get or do something or for something to happen or be true, especially something that seems possible or likely.”***

Hope, from **the world’s viewpoint** is just what that definition describes.

- The world sees hope as a wish or a desire.
- Hope, for the world, is a longing for something that may or may not take place.

The Bible teaches us a vastly different definition of hope.

Listen to the words of –

Jeremiah 17:7 - ***“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord.”***

The world says that hope is merely a fond wish or desire

- The words used ***for hope in the Bible*** tell a different story.
- They teach us that -

Hope is: ***“A deep settled confidence that God will keep His promises!”***

- ***I know you have battles; but do you have hope?***
- ***Are you resting in the sure confidence that –***
- ***God will do just as He has promised He would?***

That is the essence of hope and **hope is a possession** we all need!!!

I want to preach about ***Hope In The Midst Of Your Battles***

I want to show you, from the words of David, **why you and I have a reason to hope** in the Lord.

Notice where our hope comes from and what hope will accomplish in our lives!!!

***OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD PROVIDES HOPE Vs 1~3**

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?

David begins his **psalm of hope** by declaring **his personal faith** in the Lord.

Notice the **three-fold use** of the word “**my**” in **verse 1**.

- **David has a personal relationship with God.**
- **This is the basic foundation for hope.**

Confidence In The Person Of The Lord – David tells us that God is his “**light**”, his “**salvation**” and his “**strength**.”

There is a **tremendous blessing in these three titles** attributed to our God.

A. As **Light**, God delivers His people from Darkness –

Colossians 1:13 - For he has **rescued us** from the dominion of darkness and **brought us** into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

- As **Light** God guides our Steps

B. As **Salvation** God delivers His people from Damnation –

John 5:24 - “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged **but has crossed over from death to life.**”

- As **Salvation** God secures our Souls

C. As **Strength** God delivers His people from Defeat –

1 Corinthians 15:57 - But thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- As **Strength** God guarantees our Success

These three great characteristics of God **serve to give us hope** even in the midst of battle!

Confidence In The Performance Of The Lord Vs 2~3

²When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

³Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

David declares that his present hope in the Lord rests upon that which the Lord has done for him in the past.

- God did not fail him then -
- He will not fail His child today!!!
- He is the same God -
- With the same power that He has always been!!!

Think of all the things He has done; That should give His people hope!!!

- The victories He has won;
 - The enemies He has vanquished;
 - The mountains He has moved.....
-

****OUR COMMITMENT TO THE LORD PROVIDES HOPE Vs 4**

⁴***One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:*** that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

- David mentions **three goals** in this verse.
- These three goals all arise from a single commitment to serve the Lord faithfully from a heart of love.

Notice how David's commitment to the Lord manifests itself.

He Is Committed To Lingering Near The Lord – David wants to spend his entire life in the house of the Lord.

- He wants to be in that place ***where the Lord dwells*** -
- Where ***the Lord's presence is real***.
- He has a desire to be where God is -
- To be in that place where **God is worshiped and honored**.

That ought to be our desire as well.

- We need that **same passion** to be where the Lord is honored and where He is worshiped.
- If there is a genuine desire to be near Him, it will manifest itself in clear action.

He Is Committed To Loving The Lord – David wants to ***“behold the beauty of the Lord.”***

- That is, he wants to ***“seek His face.”***
- Not only is David ***committed*** to being where the Lord is;
- He is also ***committed*** to worshipping the Lord.

That is a worthy goal for life!

How long has it been since you just loved on the Lord?

He Is Committed To Leaning On The Lord – David also expresses his desire to call upon the Lord; to commune with God; and to make requests of God.

David here declares ***his utter dependence*** upon the Lord for the necessities of life.

My, what a ***limitless resource we have been given in prayer!***

- We are ***invited*** to pray,
- We are ***promised*** that God will hear and answer our prayers,
- Therefore, ***let us also learn to lean upon Him!***

Instead of worry and fear,

- Let us learn to turn to the Lord.
- He will see to our needs,
- He will never fail us nor will He ever turn us away empty-handed,

Note: Our commitment to Him provides hope in the day of our battles.

- As we Linger near Him; Love on Him and Lean on Him,
- We can have the absolute confidence that He will see to our needs
- And to the things that **would cause us to worry.**

***OUR COMFORT IN THE LORD PROVIDES HOPE Vs 5~6

5For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

6Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

God Has A Sheltered Place For Us Vs 5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

- David tells us that the Lord will hide him in His pavilion.
- ***A king's pavilion was a tent that erected in the middle of the army's encampment.***
- The tent was then surrounded by an army of brave soldiers.
- The king's pavilion was the safest place on the battlefield.

Those who were fortunate enough to be allowed to enter the king's pavilion were protected by the soldiers and entertained by the king during the battle!

- **Note:** The word "**hide**" means "**to treasure away.**"

As the battles of life rage about us:

- We are safely tucked away in our King's pavilion.
- The Bible tells us that "**your life is hid with Christ in God...**"

Could there be a safer place in all the universe?

Of course not!

Those who have entered His pavilion are protected by Him -

- Even while the battles rage around them,
- They are **entertained with the peace and joy** of the King Himself.
- **This is promise to those who will abide** in that close place!
- **No enemy** can penetrate the defenses and enter this private place.

It is protected from the enemy -

The assurance of His sheltering place allows us to weather the storms of life with hope.

- This was what allowed David to face Goliath.
- This was the confidence that kept Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
- This was the assurance that gripped the heart of Daniel!

God Has A Secret Place For Us – The word “*tabernacle*” brings to mind the place of worship.

- The “*secret*” refers to the “*holy of holies*”.
- That place which was off limits to all but the High Priest

He could only enter there one day per year -

- And only with the blood of an innocent sacrifice.
- It was a place that other men entered under the penalty of death.

Yet, it is that secret place, to which God takes His precious friends.

- The Holy of Holies was a place where the very presence of God dwelt
- And the glory of God could be seen.
- It was there that God took David during the battles of his life.

It was there David found himself **shut up with God** and **shut off from the world** around him.

Note: The word “*hide*” means “*to conceal*”. It is amazing that there is *a place of solitude* in a world filled with people.

That is the place He invites *those who abide* to enter!

- **Stephen** was in that place at the moment of his death
- **Paul** was in that place during his life

It is possible for us to enter that sacred, secret place where; *God becomes larger than everything else!*

God Has A Secure Place For Us Vs 5~6 – David has the assurance that *even when life threatens to overflow* him,

- The Lord will set him on a rock,
- A *place that is unchangeable, powerful and immovable.*

This Rock he refers to is none other than **the Lord Himself**

- *It is a rock that is just far above the battles* going on at its feet.
- It allows *those who ride its heights to rise far above what’s beneath!*

We are promised that *we have a place of refuge* that will lift us far above the stormy seas!

God Has A Special Place For Us Vs 6b – David says that he will worship the Lord; he will praise the Lord; *because of the things the Lord has done for him.*

- Because *the Lord has lifted him* above the battles;
- Because *the Lord has hidden him* away in the secret place;
- Because *the Lord sheltered him* away from the terrors of the battles;
- *He will praise His name!!!*
- *What a lesson to us!!!*

When *hope has turned to reality* in our lives;

- When *the Lord has come through for us again* and *Delivered us from the enemy*; We should be *quick to praise Him and Offer to Him the worship and adoration He deserves.*

When He brings us through our battles,

- ***He will put us in a special place*** from which we can exalt His lovely Name,

CLOSE:

*****Are you fighting some battles today?**

Of course you are! **But - - -**

In the midst of your battles - **do you have hope?**

Do you have the **deep confidence** that everything is going to be alright?

If you do praise the Lord, for He has already brought to that special place of blessing from which you can offer praise to His name.

But, ***if you lack that hope*** this morning, ***it can be obtained.***

How??????

You can do this by:

- ***Reaffirming your Confidence in the Lord;***
- ***By Renewing your Commitment to the Lord;***
- ***By Resting in your Comfort in the Lord.***

Do you need to talk to Him about **your battles** and about **your hope?**

If you do, this altar is a good place to take care of that business