

# Psalm 27: Trusting in God



Psalm 27 (26) (Mode 5. 5...6...1 / 1...6/ 6...5)

A psalm of deep trust: 'I will be confident'(verse 3b); 'my head is lifted up'(verse 6a); 'I believe'(verse 13); 'hope in the Lord'(verse 14). Threatened with violence as a result of false accusations, the psalmist is endeavouring to counter his fears (verse 1) by recalling his special relationship with God, who he knows will protect him: 'My heart shall not fear'(verse 3a); 'Come seek my face!'(verse 8a); 'Wait for the Lord; let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!'(verse 14).

## Contemplate Jesus in agony:

‘In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission’(Hebrews 5:7).

The Lord is his light (verse 1), his salvation and stronghold (verse 1), his help (verse 9). The Lord hides him, conceals him, sets him high (verse 5), takes him up/welcomes him (verse 10).

Situations in which the psalmist trusts: war (verse 2-3); sin (verse 9); being abandoned by parents (verse 10); being unjustly judged (verse 12).

Part One. YHWH my light, the stronghold of my life

The psalmist likens himself to a city under siege. The temple is first thought of as providing refuge, then as being a place where the psalmist can dwell all his life in God's presence. Fear is overcome by a process of spiritual interiorisation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

Lord, happy are the people who walk in the light of  
your countenance' (Psalm 89:15).

'Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory  
of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall  
cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but  
the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will  
appear over you' (Isaiah 60:1-2).

‘The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world’(John 1:9).

‘The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned’(Matthew 4:16).

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom will I shrink?

‘Gird up your loins; stand up and tell them everything that I command you. Do not break down before them’(Jeremiah 1:17).

‘I, I am he who comforts you; why then are you afraid of a mere mortal who must die, a human being who fades like grass?’(Isaiah 51:12).

‘Take courage; I have conquered the world’(John 16:33).

‘If God is for us, who is against us?’(Romans 8:31).

When evildoers attack me to devour me,  
it is they, my adversaries and foes,  
who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart will not fear.

Though I have to engage in battle, even then I will trust.

One thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long:

to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

‘Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long’(Psalm 23:6).

‘Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple’(Psalm 65:4).

‘How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise’(Psalm 84:1-4).

I long to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
while at prayer in God's temple.

The Lord will hide me there in the hour of danger.

There, set on a rock,  
concealed under the cover of the tent,  
I look down on the enemies who surround me.

I offer sacrifices with shouts of joy,  
to the sound of music,  
praising the Lord in song.

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.

If it were not so, would I have told you that I go  
to prepare a place for you?(John 14:1-2).

Hear me, O Lord,  
when I cry to you,  
be gracious and answer me!

Your voice within me says, “Seek my face!”  
Lord, it is your face that I seek.  
please do not hide.

‘I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favour’(Hosea 5:15).

‘If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land’(2Chronicles 7:14).

‘Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually’(Psalm 105:4).

Do not turn your servant away.  
Do not reject me in anger,  
for it is you who uphold me.

Do not cast me off.  
Do not forsake me,  
O God my saviour!

Even if my father and mother  
were to forsake me,  
I know you would welcome me.

‘Can a woman forget her child at the breast,  
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?  
Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.’

(Isaiah 49:15)

‘How much more will the heavenly Father give the  
Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’(Luke 11:13).

Lord, teach me your way,  
lead me on a safe path.

My enemies are waiting in ambush.

Do not give me up to their will.

False witnesses have risen against me,  
breathing out violence.

Some stood up and gave false testimony against  
Jesus' (Mark 14:57).

I believe that I will see  
the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

Hope in the Lord.

Be strong. Be brave.

Trust in the Lord.

‘Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them,  
because it is the Lord your God who goes with you;  
he will not fail you or forsake you’(Deuteronomy 31:6).

‘I, I am he who comforts you; why then are you afraid  
of a mere mortal who must die, a human being who  
fades like grass?’(Isaiah 51:12)

‘Let nothing trouble you / Let nothing frighten you/  
Everything passes / God never changes /  
Patience obtains all/ Whoever has God wants for  
nothing / God alone suffices.’

‘Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.’

(1Corinthians 16:13-14)

‘Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.’

(2Corinthians 1:3-5).