

Psalm 27

Introduction – A person who has confidence literally is one “with faith.” One who is confident in God is one who has faith in God. Christians have faith in God, or so we say – but are we confident? And if we are confident, confident about what? The Psalm-singer once again sings with a confidence in God that is picked up by Paul in Romans 8:31, “*If God is for us, who can be against us?*” As he sings, the psalmist moves from a settled confidence in God to a confident request before God for more – more light, more deliverance, and more strength.

Confidence in God (vv1-3) – If God is our Light, our Salvation/Deliverance, the Strength of our lives, then what in the world do we need fear? The rhetorical question answers itself. The Psalm-singer remembers God’s faithfulness in the past, and so can we (Rom 8:32).

Confidence in God’s Home (vv4-5) – “*Divided aims tend to distraction, weakness, disappointment*” – Spurgeon. And the psalmist’s confidence lines up with his love and loyalty. He wants to be in God’s house, seeing His beauty “*all the days of my life.*” Worship is central for it is the ground of his confidence, his life. It is the best hiding place from all that threatens us, and it sets us above and over all trials to give us the right view of all things. Note this beauty is not a serene, sentimental peace, but rather the beauty of the Lord’s war-song and victory over enemies.

Confidence Breaks Forth in Song (v6) – Because of past and impending victory, the Psalm-singer must sing. Confidence in God always produces “*singing with thankfulness in your hearts to the Lord*” (Col 3:16). Singing these psalms stirs, revives, and reforms this confidence – and the psalm-singer needs this as we see in the next verses.

Turning to God for Help with Confidence (vv7-10) – This joy and confidence in turn drives the Psalm-singer to the Lord for present help in present circumstances. The present trial does not necessarily deter the confidence; the confidence in past grace paves the way for faith in future grace. God had invited the psalmist to seek His face and so the psalmist holds God to it – “*here I am, so don’t hide Your face!*” Unlike the fickleness of all imperfect human relationships (even between parents and children), God never forsakes, never ceases to take care of His own.

Taught by God and Trusting in God with Confidence (vv11-13) – Because of the violent lies of his enemies, the Psalm-singer turns to God for instruction and a smooth path to follow. Lies about God, personal slander, and cruel persecutions can really bring a man down left to himself. He knows that he would have collapsed had he not believed in the God’s goodness (Rom 8:28), and so he turns again to his Lord.

Waiting on God with Confidence (v14) – God’s timing is always perfect, and He regularly waits until we are surrounded on the banks of the Red Sea before He parts the waters. This is His way and this is His story.

The Mood of Psalm-singing – There are two closely related moods in this psalm, and these two moods are also often in us. Confidence in God does not mean that we will not find ourselves also at times crying out in fear for deliverance now. Whether confident or anxious, or both, this psalm is to be sung to “*strengthen your heart*”, to “*be of good courage*” (v14) even in present distress.

Tangible Blessings – The blessings do not simply come in our minds or in heaven. “*There is something to be experienced of God in church that is not quite so easy to experience elsewhere*” – Boice. And so we too must seek to “*dwelt in the house of the Lord*” (v4) and find this the secret place where He hides me. That tabernacle is here on earth made up of believers in Christ (1 Pet 2:4-5), and let’s emphasize its earthiness. David expected deliverance here on earth. Abraham’s promise of land did not go up into heaven, but expanded to the whole world (Rom 4:13). The work of the gospel will press out the knowledge of the Lord over the earth (Is 11:9, Hab 2:14). Jesus was not given authority only in heaven, but over all the earth (Matt 28:18). We are to pray that God’s worship, kingdom, and will, perfect in heaven, would be manifest in the same way upon the earth (Luke 11:2). Therefore, our confidence is to be rooted in manifest answers here, on the earth, which is the Lord’s.

Tangible Confidence – This is a confidence in a Salvation/Deliverance which took place over this world. It was on this earth that Jesus “*disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it*” (Col 2:15). Therefore, we should pray and serve with confidence that God “*was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself*” (2 Cor 5:2). We should live as Christians who expect wickedness to fall and righteousness to rise. We should live as ambassadors of One who owns it all, that is, we should live with confidence (Psalm 27:2-3).

My Light and My Salvation – Light is a wonderful metaphor of this confidence. When God spoke and light came into the world, the darkness fled. When Jesus, the Light of the world and the very Word of God, came into the world, the darkness could not overcome Him (John 1:1-5). Here is the gospel: This Light, this Deliverer, this Strength has overcome the evil one, has overcome this world, and has overcome you. He has saved you, even from yourself. He has rescued you. He has redeemed you. And when He is Your Light, looking back on all He has done for you, you are able to stand confidently as you look towards your future – because it is His future. Lies about God, His future, slanders about you and your future are darkness; and when the Light shines, the darkness flees.

Waiting with Confidence – When this confidence gets a hold of you, you will find yourself saying as you stand on the shores of the Red Sea surrounded and outnumbered by your enemies, “*perfect – we have them just where we want them.*” (Psalm 27:14, Rom 8:31-39).