

- **\*Read Psalm 27/Prayer\*** If there was to be one word that had to be used to describe **Psalm 27**, I think that word would have to be confidence. The first three verses of this Psalm ooze with confidence that David is filled with because of him living in the presence of God. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" Who was there for David to fear? Who could come up against him and bring him down if God was on his side? Certainly no one could stand against God and succeed.
- Not only does David possess a sense of confidence in regard to the evil doer, but he also has confidence that he can ask things of God in prayer. He has confidence that he can approach God and request things of Him. Now, there are plenty of people who have confidence to ask God for things, but that doesn't mean that all of our requests of God are appropriate. Certainly requests that are selfish in nature are not requests that please God. Those types of requests are not found in this Psalm.
- This Psalm is full of requests that I would say fit very well with what we read in **I John 5:14,15**. These requests of David are made with confidence and they are made according to what God desires of us. They are made with a heart that truly relies upon God. This evening, we are going to take some time to consider the Righteous Requests of David, and my hope is that we will be encouraged to refocus our prayers towards things that God wills of us.

### **I. Lord, allow me to dwell in Your house. (v.4)**

- A. You might remember us studying through **Psalm 15** recently as we looked at the type of man that the Lord would allow to be in the presence of God. While a separate Psalm, David's goal was still the same...to be in fellowship with God. As a man after God's own heart, notice that David says that this was the "one thing" that he would ask of the Lord. Nothing was of more importance to him.
- B. David recognized that the opportunity to dwell in God's house was up to God. He knew that there was no way that he could force his way in or continue to dwell with God if he tried to do things his own way, he must humble himself to be as God would have him to be. He had to humble himself to do things according to the will of God, and we must continue to do the same thing even today. For us, finding the house of God means going through Jesus and His Will. (**John 14:6**)
- C. We are willing to do these things because coming into the house of God does great things for us. We find David asking God that he might be able to come in and dwell in his house and see the beauty of being with God and meditate on what it means to be a part of God's presence. (**v.4**) David knew that blessings were found in the house of God.
- D. Go back to the opening verses of this Psalm, David is confidently saying that he can overcome adversities and enemies because he has God on his side, but I would also feel confident in saying that David's confidence was in God and not himself. He himself wouldn't and we ought not get too confident in ourselves to think that we are the source of our strength. God alone sustains us in His house.
- E. David's first desire above all else was to dwell in the house of God. When he approached God, he humbled himself to acknowledge that there was no better place to be and no other way to be there. May we be a people who constantly petition God that we might continue to dwell in His house according to His Will.

### **II. Lord, be gracious and hear when I call. (v.7)**

- A. As a person who sought to dwell in the house of God, David went on to request of God that when he called, God would hear him and answer his needs. It was God's will that David and all of His followers would seek Him, and David desired to constantly seek God through prayer.
- B. It is logical that our wonderful Creator would desire that His creation seek His Face and show their reliance upon Him. Look back again at **vv.5,6**. David knew that through seeking to dwell in God's house and relying upon Him that there would be great reward. He would be protected and blessed. We, too, will be protected and blessed doing as David did.
- C. But, that will only happen if we show our reliance upon God and do so often. We must be sure to call upon the Lord early and often each and every day because there is reason in every circumstance to call upon our God. We ought to call to Him when we are tempted. We ought to call upon Him when we hurt. We ought to call upon Him when we rejoice. In all things we ought to call to Him.
- D. As a people who seek to call to God often, we can have confidence that God will keep His promises to hear us. He says in **Psalm 50:15**, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me." In **Psalm 145:17-19**, David praises God for His faithfulness and desire to help those who rely upon Him. We need to be a people who call upon the Lord often, and continue to ask of Him that He will hear us.

### **III. Lord, be patient with me. (v.9)**

- A. As fallible humans, we must acknowledge that we are susceptible to failing to live up to God's lofty standard of personal holiness and righteousness. We ought not be arrogant to think that we cannot fall short of God's standard, and thus we ought to take time to ask for God's patience to be toward us when those times come. The language of David here certainly brings to mind what is written in **Isaiah 59:2**. "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."
- B. Now, this isn't to say that we request God's patience as a preemptive measure so that we will have some sort of cushion to sin since we have implored God for patience. We ought never take sin lightly and think that God will overlook it. But what we are doing is making a righteous request that acknowledges God's perfect patience and hope that it will continue towards us if we do fall short.
- C. Furthermore, we ought to pray for God's patience as we daily struggle against temptation. Temptation abounds in this sinful world, and we ought to be in the habit of constantly asking God to help us against the temptations. We might ask that he help us to no longer be tempted in certain ways. We might ask Him to help us to not doubt in Him or the worth of our faith. We especially need to pray that God will show His patience and mercy towards us when we fail.
- D. Thankfully, He is gracious, patient, and merciful and we can have great confidence that he will forgive us when we humbly seek His forgiveness and favor. **(II Peter 3:9)**

### **IV. Lord, teach and lead me. (v.11)**

- A. If we desire to dwell in the house of God then we must relinquish our selfish desires to do things our own way. We don't get to make ourselves guests in the house of another person and think that we can start to make the rules. It is God house and his rules. We must learn His Ways.
- B. The first step in allowing God to teach us and guide us in this life is to request that we be teachable. To be teachable is to soften our hearts to be humble to see God's standard and then recognize what about ourselves that we will need to change if we want to grow to meet His standard.
- C. The truth is that His standard is the better standard. Notice what David says about the way of the Lord. He says that it is the level path. This isn't to say a path of ease, but it is path where sin and other roadblocks might be avoided. This might sound familiar to what David says back in **Psalms 23**. Remember he says in that Psalm that the Good Shepherd leads His sheep in paths of righteousness.
- D. Certainly, we ought to desire and request that God be the teacher and leader in our lives, but that isn't going to be a reality if we don't allow it. And one of the ways we show a prepared heart that will rely upon God to lead us is through constant requests that God fill those roles in our lives.

### **V. Lord, protect me from the evil ones. (v.12)**

- A. Finally, David begins to close our this Psalm by requesting that God deliver him the desires of his adversaries. Certainly, David was a man who had many enemies as a man of great godliness and power, but he didn't rely on himself for deliverance, but he constantly requested that God would deliver him from the evil ones.
- B. Would we think ourselves to be better than David in regards to our ability to take care of ourselves, or are we willing to request that the Lord help us to recognize dangers that are around us? We know that there are those who are wolves but disguise themselves as sheep like us. **(Acts 20:28-30)** We know that our adversary is a cunning lion looking for a soul to devour. **(I Peter 5:8)** What makes him even more dangerous is the fact that he has many different tactics that he will use. **(Eph. 6:11)**
- C. We might think we are wise enough to see all of these things on our own, but God truly is capable of pointing out these things to us. Through careful study, meditation, and prayer asking for God's help, I am very confident as David was that God will protect us from the evil ones and keep our souls for His glory alone.

This Psalm is bookended with similar thoughts. Confidence in God through trials and attacks by enemies and then declarations that the author will be strong and courageous as he waiting on the Lord. As he patiently made it through this life, David was able to be of good courage and keep his hope strong through the blessing of being able to constantly requests the good necessary things of this life from his loving and gracious God. There are a lot of things that we might request from God. We might even ask things with great confidence...but through David's writings and the writings of others we quickly realize that true confidence should only be put in request that are focused on those things that are most important and those things are of an eternal nature. May God help us to be constantly in prayer for these types of righteous requests. Our Lord is gracious to give us good things, and may we seek for those good things that will help us to reach the goal, heaven with our Lord, forever.