

There is Hope – Part 2

I'd like to continue today our study in the book of Psalms, Psalm 27:1-6. If you remember, the last time we spoke of the word "hope." And I want you to know today, as we continue with this, that there is hope. There is hope.

And what we've looked at is our confidence in the Lord provides hope. It's a personal faith, and that's what David had. As a light, God delivers his people from darkness. As salvation, God delivers His people from damnation. And as strength, God delivers His people from defeat.

As we keep looking on in the psalm, we saw the last time that confidence in what the Lord has done gives us hope. In other words, we look back and we see how God has sustained us through our lives and what He's done through the Word of God to His people for His people. That gives us hope today.

And we've seen that not only does our confidence in the Lord provide hope, but our commitment to the Lord provides hope. David said in Psalm 27:4, *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.*

We also saw last time that David is committed to lingering near the Lord. We, too, need to be near the Lord at all times, and if you'll remember, we spoke of how that we are commanded to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but we are to gather in the house of God into church. We are to go and belong to a local Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church.

And we saw that, if there is a genuine desire to be hear Him, it will manifest itself in clear action. There will be a commitment to prayer and to the study of the Word of God. There will be a commitment to public and private worship, and those who want to linger near the Lord will find a way. We also saw in James 4:8 that, when we make a move toward Him, He will make a move toward us.

Well, not only is David committed to lingering near the Lord, but he is committed to loving the Lord. We saw that in Psalm 27:4. David wants to behold the beauty of the Lord, and that is, he wants to seek His face. As we look at David, you see not only is David committed to being where the Lord is, but he is also committed to worshiping the Lord, and that's a worthy goal for our lives. This should be the goal of every believer as we go through this world. If we're going to worship the Lord, we're going to have to do it His way.

Jesus told us how to worship Him in John 4:24 where he said, *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* As we yield to the Spirit of God and worship God for who He is as He is revealed in the Word of God, we will be engaged in the business of loving Him. How long has it been since you said, "I love You, Lord"?

Well, not only is David committed to lingering near the Lord and committed to loving the Lord, he is committed to leaning on the Lord, according to Psalm 27:4. David also expresses his desire to call upon the Lord to commune with God and to make requests of God. And this is another image of worship. David in this Psalm 27 declares his utter dependence on the Lord for the necessities of life. David looks beyond his own abilities and

sees the limitless provisions of the Lord. Therefore, he wants nothing more than to be able to call upon the Lord.

And when we think of this, what a limitless resource we have been given in prayer. We're invited to prayer. Jeremiah 33:3 says, *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

And, again in Matthew 11:28: *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* We are promised that God will hear and answer our prayers. Isaiah 65:24 says: *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

And John 14:13-14 says, ¹³*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* ¹⁴*If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.* Because God will hear us and answer our prayers, we need to also learn to lean upon Him. Instead of worry and fear, we need to learn to turn to the Lord. He will see to our needs.

Philippians 4:6-7 says, ⁶*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* ⁷*And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

And then we read in Philippians 4:19, *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* He will never fail us, nor will He ever turn us away empty handed.

Learn that our commitment to Him provides hope in the day of our battles. As we linger near Him, love on Him, and just simply lean on Him, we can have the absolute confidence

that He will see to our needs and to the things that will cause us to worry.

Not only does our confidence in the Lord provide hope and our commitment to the Lord provide hope, but I also see in this Psalm 27 that our comfort in the Lord provides hope. God has sheltered a place for us. In other words, He is a shelter. In Psalm 27:5, it says, *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.* David tells us that the Lord will hide him in His pavilion.

I'm told that a king's pavilion was a tent that was erected in the middle of the army's encampment. The tent was then surrounded by an army of brave soldiers. With all the host of the army camped about, the king's pavilion was the safest place on the battlefield, and 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 this, that the word "hide" here means to treasure away as a treasure. As the battles of life rage against us and around us, we are safely tucked away in our King's pavilion. The bible tells us that your life is hid with Christ in God, according to Colossians 3:3.

Could there be a safer place in all the universe? Of course not. And those who have entered His pavilion are protected by Him and even while the battles rage about. When I say "about them," I'm speaking of us. We are entertained with the peace and joy of the King Himself. This promise is also to those who will abide in that close place. No enemy can penetrate the defenses and enter this private place. It's a protected place. It's protected from the enemy. The assurance of God's sheltering place allows us to weather the storms of life with hope. This

is 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, and this was the knowledge that allowed Paul to continue even when he suffered greatly. We read about that in II Corinthians 12:7-11.

Not only does God have a sheltered place for us; God has a secret place for us, according to Psalm 27:5. The word "tabernacle" in these verses that we've read brings to mind the place of worship. The secret refers to the Holy of Holies, and that place which was off limits to all but the high priests, and he could only enter there one day per year, and then only with the blood of an innocent sacrifice. It was a place that other men entered under the penalty of death. Yet, it's 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. In a king's home, this place referred to the private apartment of the king. It was a place no one could enter unless they did so at his bidding. To do otherwise invited instant death.

You know, it's amazing that there is a place of solitude in a world filled with people. There is a place that you and I can flee to during the crushing battles that rage about us, a place that affords us quiet peace and the profound presence of God. Those who have learned to abide in Him have been to that place and know the glory of it. It's a place where the enemy dares not follow. It's a place reserved for those who love the Lord their God.

Have you ever been in that place? That place where God meets with you and you alone? That place where all else falls away and you are

left with Him and Him alone. And those who are saved may enter into that sacred place the Lord has for them. It is possible for us to enter that sacred secret place where the world dims away and God becomes larger than anything and everything else.

Not only does God have a sheltered and secret place for us; God has a secure place for us. Psalm 27:5-6 talks about this, and David has the assurance in these verses that, even when life threatens to overtake him, the Lord will set him on a rock, a place that is unchangeable, powerful, and unmovable. Of course, this Rock he refers to is none other than the Lord Himself.

Psalm 40:1-2 speaks of this, and the rock referred to in these verses, Psalm 27:5-6, is a great Rock. It is a rock that juts out far above the battles going on below. It allows those who ride its heights to rise far above the tumult beneath. Being secure in the Lord is the gift to all those who know Him.

We are promised that we have a place of refuge that will lift us far above the stormy seas that would threaten to drown us. We have that Rock. That Rock is none other than Jesus Christ.

Not only does God have a sheltered, secret place and secure place for us; God has a special place. Psalm 27:6 talks about that. David says that he will worship the Lord. He will praise the Lord because of the things the Lord has done for him.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? Are you fighting some battles today? Of course, you are, but in the midst of your battles, do you have hope? You have hope if you know Jesus Christ as your Savior. He is our hope. And if you've never received the peace that passes all understanding, you can receive that peace

right now by saying, "Lord, I want Your peace. I want You to be my Savior right now. I am a sinner. I know I cannot go to Heaven on my own. I believe You died for me. You rose from the dead that I could have eternal life. The best I know how, I am now asking You to come into my heart and save me. Thank You, Lord. Amen."

If you'll pray a prayer like that and mean it in your heart, God will save you.

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