

SINGING SOLDIER

Psalm 27

Int. One of the carpenter of our Cathedral was a former army soldier. He related his experience in Jolo where they cannot see their enemies. Many, including him were overcome by fear, that they lose courage. He himself lost his mind spraying everything that moved. They easily spent their ammunitions and many died.

Many times, too, our attempt to obey God's will is defeated by fear. David who wrote the Psalms, especially our text found in Psalm 27 speak that David was facing enemies and was tempted to be afraid. But he did ^{not} give ⁱⁿ to his fears, and in this Psalm we can trace his experience and discover how we can have victory over fear.

1. WARRING (vv.1-3)

God's people have enemies. The nation of Israel was often attacked by enemies; the prophets aroused the opposition of unbelievers; even the early church experienced attack from religious people. It is impossible to escape opposition once you have made your stand for Christ,

We must keep in mind that our enemies are tools of the real enemy, Satan. Paul said: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly place" Eph.6:12. Now knowing that the people who oppose us are only being used by the devil enables us to love them and pray for them as Jesus commanded us to do. Mtt.5:43-48.

Sometime an enemy suddenly comes upon us (Ps. 27:2) and at other times, the enemy sets up camp and begins a long siege (v.3). David saw his foes as wild beast, stalking him in order to eat him up. Their very breath was cruelty (v.12). But he was not afraid, for his confidence was in God.

"In this I will be confident" he cried out. "In the Lord who is my light, salvation and strength!"

Now light is a significant symbol of God, for God is compared to the sun (Ps.84:11), which is the source of life for our world. Enemies like to attack at night and catch us off guard, but if we are walking in the light, they will fail.

Because God is our light, He is our salvation. Salvation in the OT usually refers to deliverance from physical danger, but the spiritual meaning is not lacking (Ps.51:14).

When the enemy attacks us, God is also our strength or stronghold. The word used here by David describes a fortress into which the enemy cannot penetrate. It also carries the meaning of strength that God gives to his people in times of attack. We do not run

into the fortress to hide, but to get the power needed to go back and face the enemy. So God is our fortress around us and our force within us, and with his help we defeat. This affirmation of David creates in him a courage that will melt any rising of fear in his heart.

Not matter what kind of experience or equipment a soldier might have, if he has fear in his heart, he will fail. "My heart shall not fear" affirmed David in v. 3. You see, fear in the heart always makes the enemy look bigger and tempts us to walk by sight and not by faith. David was not fearful and faced the enemy with courage.

What was the secret of David's fearless confidence in battle? The second experience described in the Psalm gives us the answer.

II. WORSHIPPING (v.4-6).

In David's experience, he won the battle in his private times of worship with the Lord. David had many responsibilities, and there were many demands upon his time, but his number one priority was seeking God's face.

Without satisfying worship, there can be no successful warfare. How did David know that God was a light, a deliverer, and a fortress? He learned it while meditating in his times of worship. David envied the priest who were privileged to dwell close to God's house and even enter the courts and the holy place. So David longed to leave the battlefield and dwell in God's house. But, wherever he was, he took time to come into God's presence, meditate on God's gracious kindness and contemplate the person of God.

The privilege that David longed for is ours today, and yet we fail to take advantage of it. This explains why we so often are defeated in the battle of life, for if we would be successful warriors, we must first be successful worshippers. If we ignore His presence, we forfeit His protection.

In his worship, David not only sought the Lord, but he also praised him in song. This is important to note, because it is easy to plead with the Lord in the midst of the battle, and then forget to praise Him after He has given victory.

He reminds us that worship is one of the great needs in our personal lives and in churches, today. Remember, victories on the battlefield of life are won in the prayer room.

III. WALKING (v.7-12).

Now the atmosphere of our text, in v.7-12, changes at this point, for we move out of the tabernacle of worship into the marketplace and the daily demands of life. Often it is in the daily round of life that we face our greatest temptations and meet our greatest defeats.

David's great concern is that God will not forsake him but will walk with him and deliver him. It is one thing to ~~be~~ see God's beauty in the house of worship and something else to practice His presence on the path of life.

Psalms 27:8 states an important spiritual truth: be sensitive to God's voice and when He speaks, immediately respond to Him. You may be driving your car, pushing a shopping cart, or mowing the lawn, but if God touches your heart, pause to worship him and to seek his face. (Illustration. A woman apologizing to God for not appreciating the blessings of the morning). You need ~~stop~~ what you are doing, although it is good to do so when you can simply lift your heart in loving praise to Him! These little worship breaks during the day will help keep you fresh and encouraged in the Lord and they will help make you a blessing to others.

Now as we walk the path of life, we need direction and guidance and this is the burden of the prayer in verses 11-12. "Teach me...lead me...Deliver me". The enemy is always present to trip us up and to get us on attractive detours. No matter what the contour of the land might be, God wants to lead us so that we will not trip and fall. In short the secret of the heart is when we seek the face of God, we cannot fear! As long as we look to Him by faith, He will guide us on the right path; and we will not give the enemy occasion to slander God's name.

I have shared three experiences of David: warring, worshiping and walking. But the fourth experience is the most difficult, and yet it is important to us if we are going to overcome fear.

IV. WAITING (vv. 13-14)

David had prayed for God's will in v. 11, but the will of God involves the right time as well as the right actions and motives. There are times when God calls on us to act, and we must obey without delay. But there are also times when God calls upon us to wait so that He may act and we dare not interfere. It has well been said that God's delays are not God's denials; they are only preparation for greater blessings. To do a right thing at the wrong time is to disobey the will of God. When God says wait! It is because there is yet work for Him to do, either in us or for us, to prepare His blessings.

In the Christian life, waiting is not inactivity, doing nothing. Waiting is preparation for the next battle, the next blessing. As we wait, we pray, we meditate on the Word; we worship God. You see, the wise soldier regathers his strength during the lull in the battle. As the scripture says: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." (Isa. 40:31). Remember a restless heart usually leads to a reckless life.

CONCLUSION:

Brothers and sisters we are facing our battles of life everyday. God can help us conquer our fear that we may win the battle, if we will learn to worship God, walk with him, and wait for him.