

VINEYARD church

PRAYER & FASTING

DAY 7

Scripture Focus

"The Lord is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident. The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple. For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock. Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me. At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the Lord with music. Hear me as I pray, O Lord. Be merciful and answer me! My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming." Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation! Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close. Teach me how to live, O Lord. Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me. Do not let me fall into their hands. For they accuse me of things I've never done; with every breath they threaten me with violence. Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord."

Psalms 27:1-14 (NLT)

What Do You Want?

Someone recently posed the question to me, "what are you asking the Lord for yourself right now?" As I paused to consider my answer I thought, what could I possibly ask God for that really means something to me? Would I ask for more stuff, money, health, friends or some other thing that may only satisfy me for a short period? You know that part of the airplane safety instructions where the flight attendant is explaining what to do when traveling with a child and the oxygen masks deploy? Remember that instruction that in an emergency to "secure your own mask first?" In a similar way as followers of Christ, the reality of the prayer needs around us are abundantly clear. We are compelled to devote ourselves to praying for family, friends, hurting people and those so desperately in need of God's intervention everywhere we look. While this is an awesome fact and a real burden we carry as believers, it is important to remember just like on the airplane to "secure our out mask first."

Only His Presence

In Psalm 27 we see the cry of David's heart. As king of Israel, there was no earthly possession out of his reach, yet none of that was his heart's desire. David knew that the only thing He wanted was God's presence in his life. He wanted to be with God. This was his one request of the Lord. "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple." David had a clear understanding that trials and troubles were part of life, just read his story. He also knew all too well that he had and would make mistakes in life. But he knew that in God's presence there was no fear and no pain. There was no trial that God wouldn't bring him through.

So as I considered my answer to the question, I considered David's heart cry. All I want is to dwell in the Lord's presence. In His presence is rest, peace, joy, love, comfort and refuge. As we carry the burdens of others in prayer and face the trials of life, it is His presence that sustains us and gives us strength.

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Prayer

Will you read the Psalm of David again and make it your prayer?

"The Lord is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident. The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple. For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock. Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me. At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the Lord with music. Hear me as I pray, O Lord. Be merciful and answer me! My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming." Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation! Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close. Teach me how to live, O Lord. Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me. Do not let me fall into their hands. For they accuse me of things I've never done; with every breath they threaten me with violence. Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord."

Psalms 27:1-14 NLT

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