

# Fear—Psalm 27

#0741

Study given by W.D. Frazee—1950

It is a most wonderful thing that the greatest danger and the greatest problem and the greatest opposition that will ever be faced by human beings in this world will be met by the least fear. That is the great final conflict just ahead of us; the climax of the conflict of the ages.

It is to prepare a people for that conflict that the third angel's message has been revealed and given all over this world. God would have His people prepared for this crisis. Prepared or unprepared, we must all meet it. Happy will those be who have learned to abide in the secret place of the most High, under the shadow of the Almighty.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. 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. 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. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD. Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. Hide not Thy face far from me; put not Thy servant away in anger: Thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up. Teach me Thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD” Psalm 27.

Did the man who wrote this psalm know anything about trouble? Did he know anything about opposition? Oh, yes. It was out of the depth of such experiences that he spoke, inspired by God.

Through much of David's life he met opposition. At an early age he had been selected by God to take the place of the monarch. Saul had rebelled against God by refusing to carry out the counsels of the spirit of prophecy. He was substituting his wisdom for the divine revelation of God. He wanted to do God's work, but he wanted to do it in Saul's way.

Finally God said to Samuel, we can't use Saul. We will have to find another. I have a young man in mind. He sent Samuel down to anoint David.

David continued quietly with his work of minding sheep. He sought to prepare himself for the great responsibility that lay ahead of him.

Soon after he was called of God to meet the challenge of Goliath. You remember the wonderful victory God gave him. He was called into intimate contact with the king. Finally, as God blessed David it dawned upon the mind of Saul that perhaps this was the man that had been selected to take his place. The spirit of malice grew in his mind and heart. He finally sought to kill David with a javelin. Later he brought armies to pursue this young man.

David was forced to flee from place to place, sometimes living in caves, sometimes in the deserts, sometimes in the mountains, sometimes even outside the land of Israel in exile. What a life he lives for years. He was hunted like a wild beast. He was just one jump ahead of his enemy.

Through those experiences David was developing a trust in God, which is breathed through the psalms we love to read and sing. God has seen fit to preserve that history and these psalms so you and I may learn the same experience and sing the same songs.

We are going into battles far beyond those David went through. We are going into opposition. Even from those we ought to expect protection we shall find betrayal and persecution.

As those experiences come to us will we lose our hope? Will we lose our faith? Will we have the experience David had? Let's see what the source of his confidence was. It doesn't lie in any circumstances or any people. It doesn't lie in this world or in humanity. It lies in heaven, in God Himself.

"The Lord is my light, and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?" Nobody. This is a rhetorical question. It is a wonderful way of saying I won't fear anybody. I won't fear any human being. Why? The Lord is my light, and my salvation.

The worse thing any human being can do to us is not to torture our bodies, but to put fear into our souls. What can be done at the rack or the stake is small compared to what can be done without lifting a finger against the body. Some of the keenest minds are harnessed to the terrible task of how to subdue the human mind;

how to take captive the thoughts of people; how to harness the energies of thought, and at the same time kill the initiative and the conscience. That is being done under the red banner of communism and the black banner of the Jesuits.

It matters not which side of the iron curtain we look, it is yet to be focused on this remnant people. And while we must face the torture of the body, the greatest peril we face is that to which our minds will be exposed. Fear is going to spring up and blossom under those conditions if there is any seed within the soil of our hearts. As the spring rains bring ten thousand weeds, so that which lies ahead of these people will bring out within us any lurking fear.

Is there any fear in your mind or heart? Someone says, Of course, there is. Everybody is afraid.

We are naturally, and there is no power in us to drive fear from us. We can no more run away from fear than we can run away from our shadow on a moonlit night. But there is deliverance from fear. God wants each one of us to be lifted far above all fear.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.”

David doesn't say that when the host comes I tremble and shake until it is gone. No, he doesn't say that. When he saw the host coming it was the sense of the presence of God that kept him from fear. Not so much that God was on his side, but that he was on God's side. There is a difference between those two things.

My mind goes to the experience of the prophet, Elisha. The whole army of Syria was sent after one man, the prophet of God. So important did the Devil consider the spirit of prophecy in Israel as to make away with the man who was bringing those revelations from heaven. The king of Syria dispatched his army to the city of Dothan to get that man. They came by night and surrounded that place.

In the early morning Elisha's servant was looking around and saw that great army out there. He said, “Alas, my master! how shall we do?” I want you to notice what happened and where the confidence of Elisha lay:

“And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them” 2 Kings 6:16.

The answer of faith rose up in his heart, because faith was resident there. Do you feel that way when you meet opposition, lies, slander?

“And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha” 2 Kings 6:17.

Chariots of fire were round about Elisha. Before that army could get to Elisha and his servant they must pass the angels of God. That leads us to think of the psalm which says:

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them  
that fear him, and delivereth them” Psalm 34:7.

Are they encamping round about you, friend? If they are not, I would move into the circle.

They tell me that out in the tropics they have a circle of campfires at night. What for? To keep those jungle beasts from coming in. They won't come through fire. They are afraid of it.

And let me tell you, friend, the Devil is afraid of the angels of God. He had better be. One angel took care of a hundred eighty-five thousand of those Assyrians who were lifting up their hands against the word of heaven. Just one angel. One angel took every first born in every Egyptian home the night of the deliverance of Israel from bondage.

I say, Satan and all his hosts had better be afraid of the angels of God. And if you and I want to be delivered from fear, all we need to do is move into the circle of the angels, and stay there and sense the presence.

Somebody says, I can't see them.

That depends on what you use. Thank God that He has given us faith. With the eye of faith we can see and discern these angels. They are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.

“Only the sense of God's presence can banish the fear  
that, for the timid child, would make life a burden”  
*Education*, page 255.

Catch the implication of this sentence. What will fear do? It will make life a burden. But there is something that can banish it. Thank God. Like Napoleon, banished to that lonely island in St. Helena where he died, fear can be sent into exile, banished from your life. How? By the sense of the presence of God.

Even a timid child can be delivered from fear. One naturally shy can be delivered from fear. What will do it? A sense of the presence of God.

“Let him fix in his memory the promise, ‘The angel of the  
Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and  
delivered them.’ Psalm 34:7” *Ibid*.

Is there anyone here who is afraid? Commit this text to memory. It is the fear of God that banishes the fear of man. The more we fear God the less we fear man.

The fear of God is, of course, not a slavish fear. Not a fear that brings ulcers, high blood pressure, and heart trouble. Oh, no. The fear of God is a respect for God, a sense of His majesty, His authority, His over all rule that makes us so conscience of Him that we lose all fear of anybody else. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, knowledge, of life. Oh, that all of us may enter into this with all our hearts.

I love to think of the testimony of Luther in the dark days when the reformation seemed about to perish because all the military might of the Roman empire seemed to be turned against him. The great ecclesiastical power and authority of the Pope of Rome, and all his archbishops and cardinals, was focused on blotting out that monk that had chosen to stand up and declare the Word of God with boldness.

Luther had an associate by the name of Melanchthon. Luther was inclined to be a bit like Peter. He was bold. He had to be. Melanchthon was more quite, retiring. He was a scholar, and sometimes a bit fearful. Listen:

“To Melanchthon, who was crushed under the burden of anxiety and fear, he [Luther] wrote: ‘Grace and peace in Christ—in Christ, I say, and not in the world. Amen. I hate with exceeding hatred those extreme cares which consume you. If the cause is unjust, abandon it; if the cause is just, why should we belie the promises of Him who commands us to sleep without fear? ...Christ will not be wanting to the work of justice and truth. He lives, He reigns; what fear, then, can we have?’”  
*Great Controversy*, page 210.

Luther himself at times met discouragement. I read an experience he had when he came home one day to find his wife in mourning. He asked her what she was wearing mourning clothes for. She said, “Oh, God is dead.” He asked her what she meant. She said, “You act like it.”

He got the point. He got his eyes off the troubles and opposition that were all around him. He got his eyes on God, and the mourning dress came off his wife.

Is God with us, friends? Well, if He isn't, we had better get where He is, hadn't we?

During the days of the civil war someone asked President Lincoln if God was on the side of the North. His answer is wonderful. He said, “I am not so much concerned whether God is on our side, but whether we are on His side.”

Believe me, you can never beg or buy the support of God for your cause. The very reason why many are fearful is because they have espoused a cause of doubtful value. There is only one place where you can afford to be without fear. It is to be buried completely in the plan and purpose of God.

David had one consuming desire. Just one. What is it? “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.” I am not trying to pull God down to my program. Oh, I am

seeking with all my soul that I may enter into His plan. I want to dwell there with Him always. Not merely in the future life, but in this life. That was David's consuming desire. Only thus can we be delivered from fear.

Freedom from fear must never mean that we know that we are going to get what we want. There is a great counterfeit for what we are studying. There are preachers preaching in popular churches a doctrine, a philosophy of peace, which comes directly from Satan. The prophet Ezekiel says, "They heal slightly the hurt of the daughter of my people saying Peace, peace, when there is no peace." Thousands are being lulled to sleep with a false doctrine of how to get what you want through religion. How to be able to sleep at night through prayer. Why? Because I want to sleep. And the kind of religion doesn't make any difference. Whatever religion will put you to sleep the best, use it. Sure. Your desire is to get to sleep. You don't want to toss all night, so you had better learn to pray.

Do you see what I am getting at? It doesn't come from heaven, my friends. No. The best thing that can happen to some people is not to be able to go to sleep. They don't need to sleep. They need to have their conscience awake.

If I have a splinter in my finger, what I need is not some drug to make me feel comfortable. I need something to pull that splinter out. If I have swallowed a pin and it is pricking the inside of my anatomy, what I need is not something to swallow so I will feel comfortable and go to sleep. I need somebody to get hold of that pin and get it out before it punctures a vital blood vessel.

Let us never think that freedom from fear is to be obtained by some tranquilizing drug, or some hypnotic spell, or some soothing words. No. The way to have peace is to let Jesus take sin away, and then rest in the arms of His love. It is to be fully satisfied with God and His way, and know that He is going to bring about in our lives that which He sees is best and to His glory.

That is why those three Hebrews were not afraid when they were commanded to bow down and worship the graven image. When ten thousand people knelt before that image they stood up. Do you suppose their knees were shaking? Do you suppose they tried to find some tree that they could hide behind? Do you suppose they sort of crouched so they could keep out of sight?

No. They were not afraid. They stood there in holy confidence. When they were called to answer about it, and Nebuchadnezzar found out their religious scruples, he said, Listen, there is no god going to deliver you out of my hands. There is that furnace. It is already hot, and it is going to get seven times hotter, and in you go unless you bow down. Think it over.

They said, No, we don't need any more time to think it over. We have a God who is able to deliver us. But whether He delivers us or not, we will not worship that image. We love Him much more than we fear you. We would rather die loving Him than live fearing you.

So into the furnace they went.

We say, Yes, but the Lord delivered them. My point is, their peace was before they ever went into the fire. God wants you and me to have that, for we are going into the fire, my friends. And we, like them, are not going to worship an image.

Is there going to be an image set up? Have you been reading in the *Review and Herald* lately about the Sunday law movements, labor unions, Catholics and Protestants all uniting to try to force down the throats of the American people the Sunday law idea? Oh, it is coming. It is far more than a little cloud the size of a man's hand on the horizon. The tempest will soon be here.

Are you afraid? Oh, ask God to deliver you from fear. And how will God teach you those lessons? By letting you have from day to day some little things that ordinarily might make you afraid. People, circumstances, opposition, lies about you, threats. It is amazing what little things can make people afraid.

Jesus can deliver us from fear. I spoke about the tranquilizing drugs people take to get rid of fear. The doctor who is in charge of the United States Public Service, Dr. Hynes, in a recent statement said:

“People who do not appear to be happy, either asleep or awake, are taking tranquilizing drugs to keep them in between.”

Do you know how these tranquilizing drugs work? Just this week I got hold of a picture that shows how they work. The picture shows two white rats in a laboratory. A doctor has been working an experiment with these rats. A grid charged with electricity was put underneath them. When the doctor wants to he can give the rats a charge of electricity on their feet. Of course, they jump. Each rat thinks it is the other rat that did it to him, so they fall to and start to fight. It is the normal reaction of the rat to that. It has been established.

But now they give them some tranquilizing drugs. What do you suppose happens? The rats jump at the electric shock, but they no longer take it out on each other. You see? They still jump. That is the physiological reaction. But now they don't fight the other fellow anymore.

Maybe you might think it would be a good thing if you could get a dose of that drug so you wouldn't feel like doing something to somebody who has done something to you, or, like the rat, think they have done something to you.

Is that the answer? Can you imagine one of those rats writing a song saying, I used to be so belligerent. But since I have been taking such and such I can be happy even when the shocks come.

Is that the brand of peace and victory you want? Listen. You can get it in any one of a dozen tranquilizing drugs today, and you can get it in any one of a hundred religious tranquilizers—false doctrines to lull and soothe the conscience.

What poor substitutes. What wicked counterfeits. And all the while Jesus stands by offering us the sweet peace and companionship of His presence and protection.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” One of the ways David learned these lessons was being a shepherd. For years he spent his time looking after those sheep. He had to take them to pasture. He had to find water. He had to find places to shelter them at night where not thief or wolf could get them. In all these ways he learned what a shepherd's work is, and how the sheep were to be protected. So he sang, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Someone has pictured questions coming up to a sheep about just what it is going to do under this or that circumstance. Hear the sheep answering:

Where will this hungry lambkin feed?  
Where find the grass that meets my need?  
What questions for a sheep indeed?  
My Shepherd knows.

And when I thirst for waters cool  
And long to find the quiet pool,  
No wisdom lies within this wool;  
My Shepherd knows.

The night draws on, where shall I rest?  
Safe, sheltered from each thief and beast?  
I know now, need not know the least;  
My Shepherd knows.

Oh, friends, let us have done with that quest for security, which lies in surrounding ourselves with battlements so high that no enemy can penetrate. Which lies in the idea of amassing gold so much that we can never spend it all. With surrounding ourselves with enough other things or people so we need not fear. One day of the time of trouble will blast all that into a thousand pieces.

But in the midst of that time of trouble, songs of praise will rise from the remnant people of God. Our hope is in Jesus.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea” Psalm 46:1-2.

Thank God, Jesus is in the business of speaking peace to those who will listen and will come close enough to Him to catch His whispered words.



Has He whispered peace to your heart? Are you willing to give up your ways, not merely your sins, but your ambitions, your desires, your careers, likes and dislikes? Are you willing to lay them all at Jesus' feet and say, Lord, anything You want is what I want.

Then and only then can you be delivered from fear. Let Him whisper that word of peace this morning.

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