**Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church** - **BIBLE STUDY 10/15**

**KNOW, BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE STUDIES**

**SINCERITY OF THE HEART**

**Psalms 27:1-6**

1 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?

2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh,

they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

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.

5 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.

6 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.

14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

**Prayer Power doesn't come in carnal volume. It comes from the sincerity of your heart!**

SPIRITUAL CONFIDENCE, is to have belief that you can rely and depend on God. That’s enough in that statement alone. We were created to develop and push forward our confidence in whom we trust. The world will tell you to have confidence in yourself and your ability to accomplish your goals and realize your dreams. Rich people are often confident in their wealth. The powerful are often confident in their strength and position. The worldly wise are confident in their wisdom.

In this hard moment of David’s life, David doesn’t begin by complaining; he begins by reminding himself of what is true. It’s important to say that it’s never more important to preach yourself the theology of the Word of God, than in those moments when life doesn’t make sense.

**We need to focus on what we *know* about God, not how we *feel* about God**

FEELINGS MAKE YOU NEGLECT THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

WHEN WE NEGLECT PRAYER…

1) “Heartfelt prayer soon becomes only empty words and a form.”

2) “Those who neglect it, begin to slip away from Christ to emptiness in this present age.”

3) “They begin to think, feel, and talk less frequently about God and spiritual things.”

4) “Private time alone with God becomes less and less frequent until it disappears altogether.”

5) “Resisting sin becomes less and less important. Resulting in the most serious consequences.”

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WHEN YOU PRIORITIZE PRAYER:

1. **Prayer** brings a REWARD.

2. **Prayer** brings REVIVAL.

3. **Prayer** brings RELEASE.

4. **Prayer** brings RESULTS.

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When you know who God is,

When you understand His sovereignty

When you realize he created the universe,

He spoke worlds into existence,

He parted Red Seas,

He healed the lepers,

He multiplied food,

He closed mouths of lions,

He is God and besides Him there is none other…

**YOU ELEVATE YOUR PRAYERS.**

You won't just ask him for water or for ordinary things, you'll ask him for living water, you'll ask him for your dreams, you'll ask him for what looks impossible.

**LET’S ITEMIZE DAVID’S CONFIDENCE AND TESTIMONY - 3 things:**

**A. My light**

-Light was the first aspect of creation which God spoke into existence.

-God is called light,

-Jesus called Himself light and

-We are called to walk in the light just as He is in the light.

-light represents walking with God and being His favor.

David is describing the relationship that he is currently experiencing with the Lord. David is in fellowship with God. He is walking with God and therefore has great confidence that he has nothing to fear.

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**B. My salvation**

-IS…God’s power **brings** His salvation and deliverance.

-IS…God’s power and ability that **delivers** us from our enemies,

-IS…God’s power over our sins,

-IS…God’s power over the power of Satan.

-Can help me through ANY situation that we may encounter.

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**C. The stronghold of my life**

-IS…an anchor in the turmoil and waves of life that we encounter

-PROVIDES…a life free from worry and anxiety

-KNOWLEDGE…Romans 8:28, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

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**QUESTION:  IF YOU HAD TO “ITEMIZE” GOD’S BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD YOUR LUST LOOK LIKE?**

FOR ME FORGIVENESS…I CAN TRY AGAIN

FOR ME HE WAKES ME UP…I CAN TRY AGAIN

**YOUR TURN…**

**SERMONIC POINTS:**

**1 KNOW YOUR GOD**

1 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?

-DAVID AS SHOULD WE…IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSARIAL BATTLES…SHOUT IN TRIUMPH

-STAND ON THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR PAST PRAYERS AND BELIEF

-KNOWING GOD ISN’T DEEP;  IT’S UNDERSTANDING REALITY IN LIFE.

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**2 RECOGNIZE YOUR PAST VICTORIES**

2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh,

they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

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.

-Faith and unbelief cannot coexist…KNOW WHERE YOU’VE COME FROM!

-Refuse to be remembered as I almost made it…YOU WON BEFORE.

-**Don’t allow your name to be attached to victim, defeat or failure.**

There are four key words here: seek, dwell, behold, and enquire. Too often, we inquire without seeking, dwelling, or beholding. **We want God’s answers, but not God Himself**. Answers come after we have fellowshipped with Him. He wants us to want Him…THOUGHTS?

**QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER MADE A LIST OF GOD’S BLESSINGS AND VICTORIES IN YOUR LIFE?**

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**3 NO MATTER WHAT…LORD, I’LL TRUST YOU.**

5 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.

6 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.

-In the time of trouble, is not to be understood literally.

-David means that his **spirit** **will find a refuge with God**

 -David will not actually hide from his enemies…vs5 states that there is a needy time; a time that others forsake you…

- But God*, “…shall hide you in his pavilion*:” he shall give you the best of shelter in the worst of danger.

-"God's pavilion" is a metaphor for a place of divine protection and refuge, representing a spiritual shelter from troubles. It signifies God's presence providing safety, strength, and sustenance for believers during difficult times

-"God's pavilion"…The term is often associated with a "strong tower" or a "secret place," where God hides and shelters His people, similar to a tent or booth providing shelter from the elements

-No one of Old Testament text dared to enter the most holy place (pavilion).

-If the Lord has hidden his people there, what foe shall even think to try them there?

-But in your exit….THOUGHTS?

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14 **Wait on the LORD**: **be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.**

-**AS YOU WAIT…”BE”…REMAIN IN THE CONSTANT PRESENCE OF THE LORD!**

-David advises one more thing: “**Be** of good courage and in your **BEING** He will strengthen your heart.”

 Courage is to have heart. Exercise your courage, even if you only have a little. Keep believing

 God, and He will add His courage to yours.

-Our sincerity in prayer and faith is knowing the Lord.

- SELAH

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**CONNECTED STUDY…**

**ALPHA & OMEGA**

Psalm 27

**Psalm 27** has beautiful lessons we can learn from. Through David’s words, we have the opportunity to be encouraged. David doesn’t begin by complaining; he begins by reminding himself of what is true. From his words, we have the opportunity to glean and experience hope, security, and rest. He **IS** our light and our salvation.

Psalm 27 is traditionally divided into two sections: verses 1–6 and 7–14. The first section **expresses confidence in God's power and protection**, while the second section shifts in tone with **a plea for God's mercy**.

Verses 1-3 – David asserts his confidence in God alone

Verses 4-6 – David’s desire to be completely fixed on and focused on God

Verses 7-12 – David’s fear brings him to a place of prayer

Verses 13-14 – David reaffirms his faith in God and provides some instructions.

**SERMONIC POINTS:**

**1 NOT ALL DELIVERANCE COMES QUICKLY**

**2 STAY FOCUSED IN A DISTRACTING WORLD**

**3 THIS AIN’T HEAVEN…**

The testimony of David rests where David is living and has lived.

**THIS EMPHASIZES THE POINT OF OUR PERSPECTIVE TONIGHT.**

Let me read v1 this way: “The Lord is light and salvation...The Lord is a stronghold...of whom shall I be afraid?”

**Now, I’ve just given you bad theology because I’ve left out a word**.

David says, “The Lord is **my** light…The Lord is **my** salvation…The Lord is **my** stronghold.” Now, here’s what theology should do for you: theology, properly handled, should not just define who God is (**listen carefully**), but should redefine who you are as a child of God. The statements David makes, “The Lord is my light and my salvation and my stronghold,” are not just God defining statements–they are statements of **David’s identity** as a child of God.

**MAKE SURE YOUR TESTIMONY IDENTIFIES THE TRUTH OF YOUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD.**

* **CONFIDENT TRUST IN TIME OF DANGER (27:1-6)**
  + **CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD (1-3)**
    1. The courage of David exists because:
       - When the LORD is his light and salvation
       - When the LORD is the strength of his life whom shall he fear.
    2. The LORD's help in the past
       - When the wicked, his enemies and foes came against him
       - They stumbled and fell
    3. The LORD's help favors him for the future
       - Though encamped by an army in time of war
       - His heart will not fear, it remains confident in the LORD
  + **COMMUNION WITH GOD (4-6)**
    1. The one thing he desires of the LORD:
       - To dwell in His house all his life
       - To behold His beauty, and inquire in His temple
    2. The reason for David's fervent desire
       - In time of trouble the LORD will hide him
         1. In His pavilion
         2. In the secret place of His tabernacle
       - The LORD will set him high upon a rock
    3. His response to being lifted high above his enemies
       - To offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle
       - To sing praises to the LORD

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* **ANXIOUS PRAYER IN TIME OF DANGER (27:7-12)**
  + **PLEA FOR MERCY (7-10)**
    1. David's cry to the LORD was:
       - To hear when he cries with his voice
       - To have mercy and answer him
       - For his heart responded to the LORD saying "Seek My face"
    2. David's plea to the LORD
       - Do not hide His face from him
       - Do not turn His servant away in anger, for He has been his help
       - Do not leave or forsake him, for He is the God of his salvation
    3. David's hope in the LORD
       - When forsaken by his parents
       - The LORD will take care of him
  + **PLEA FOR DELIVERANCE (11-12)**
    1. David's request for guidance from the LORD
       - To teach him His way
       - To lead him in a smooth path, because of his enemies
    2. David's reason for asking the LORD for deliverance from his adversaries
       - For false witnesses have risen against him
       - Such as breathe out violence

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* **REASSURING SELF IN TIME OF DANGER (27:13-14)**
  + **NEED FOR FAITH IN THE LORD (13)**
    1. He would have lost heart unless he believed
    2. That he would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living
  + **NEED TO WAIT ON THE LORD (14)**
    1. To be of good courage
    2. He shall strengthen your heart

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