

Intro

1. David is the Author

2. Structure:

I.	Vs 1	Declaration or Truth About God – The Lord is David’s Defense
II	Vs 2-3	God Causes His Enemies to Fail
III.	Vs. 4-6	David Doesn’t Fear Because He Has Set His Life Toward God
IV.	Vs. 7-12	David Doesn’t Fear Because God Will Not Forsake Him
V.	Vs. 13-14	Conclusion

3. Literary Techniques:

Metaphors: Vs. 1 *“Lord is Light”*,
Vs. 1 *“Lord is Defense”*

Personification: Vs. 3 *“Heart will Not Fear”*
Vs. 8 *“My Heart Said to Thee”*
Vs. 12 *“Breathe Out Violence”*
Vs. 14 *“Let Your Heart Take Courage”*

Word Pictures: Vs. 2 *“Evil-Doers Devour My Flesh”*
Vs. 5 *“Conceal Me In His Tabernacle, Hide Me In His Tent”*
Vs. 6 *“He will lift me up on a rock”*
Vs. 6 *“My head is lifted above my enemies”*

Progressive Intimacy In The Psalm

First Section David speaks of a very external defense by God on his behalf.

Second section David speaks about personal decision to seek the Lord always.

Third section David shifts focus directly to God with a series of very intimate petitions.

This Psalm Is All About David’s Trust in The Lord

INTRO: Vs. 1 *“The Lord is my light & my salvation, whom shall I fear?”*
“The Lord is my defense (or refuge), whom shall I dread?”

Answer: David Has No One to Fear

Rest of Psalm Is A Continuation of Trust w/ Theme of Adversaries Woven Throughout

Vs. 2 “adversaries”, Vs. 3 “host & wars”, Vs. 6 “enemies”, Vs. 11 “foes”, Vs. 12 “adversaries & false witnesses”

David Symbolically Refers to God as His light which we see throughout the Bible.

David Also Speaks of God As His Salvation & His Defense

- It Is Likely That David Primarily Has a Natural & Physical Salvation in Mind Here
- David Recognized Existence After This Life
 - Other refernces in Psalms to Sheol
 - David -late infant son *“He can no longer come to me but I can go to him.....”*

I. Vs. 2-3 David Doesn't Fear Because God Comes to His Defense

Vs. 2-3 *"When evil doers came upon me,..... they stumbled and fell."
"Though enemies encamp around me,.....my heart will not fear."
"Though wars arise against me, I remain confident."*

- Consider the safety David was given from Saul
- Consider the safety David was given from Goliath
- Sometimes the supernatural hand of God is readily visible in a situation
- Sometimes God's defense of us is less obvious and it manifests itself in the failure of adversaries

**Principle I: We Should Not fear Because God Comes To Our Defense
Vs. 3 This Gives David Confidence**

We should understand that the same is true for us in varying ways.

- This does not mean that we will never experience physical harm.
- It does not mean that we are invincible.
- However, it reminds us that God is working in our behalf.
- I have a good friend who says "You don't always have to show up to every fight you're invited to."

Ephesians 6:12 *"For our struggle is not against flesh & blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

**Have you ever had a conflict at work or school that miraculously got resolved?
Maybe the other person ended up self-destructing.
Maybe the truth came to the light without you having to "fight".**

II. Vs. 4-6 David Doesn't Fear Because He Set His Desires Toward God

Vs. 4 David Shares a Desire of His Heart & A Motivation for Living

- The phrase "One Thing" could be an idiom of sorts.
- David's Desire Was That He Might Physically Dwell In God's House All The Days of His Life.
- Practically Speaking, he may have understood this was not possible, yet it was still his desire.

To Be In The Presence of The Lord Is A Good Thing

Vs. 4 *"I have asked the Lord and I will seek all my life to dwell in His house, to behold His beauty, and to meditate in his Temple."*

Parallelism: *"Behold the Beauty of the Lord"*
"Meditate in His temple"

Matthew Henry writes *"the harmony of all of God's attributes is His Beauty."*

To be in the presence of God is to behold His beauty.

Mount of Transfiguration- Peter said *"It is good for us to be here, let's build some shelters & stay"*

Vs. 5 David Also Recognizes There is Safety In the Lord

- Isn't this a neat word picture. To be hidden in the Lord's secret place

Vs. 6 *"I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy."*

- Psalm 51 *"I do not delight in sacrifice or burnt offerings, but a contrite heart"*
- Jesus told the Samaritan Woman at the well The Father is Seeking Worshipping in Spirit & Truth.

Principle II: We Should Set Our Hearts on God & Desire to Seek Him All Our Days

- God no longer dwells in mobile tabernacle or fixed earthly temples.
- Ed DeZago's proposition what we have in Christ Jesus is far better than Adam & Eve had in the garden.
- David's highest prayer & desire was to be in the presence of God daily.
- David wanted the relationship that you and I have constantly with God.
- Yet, we sometimes "go through the motions of worship & praise as part of a routine.

III. Vs. 7-12 David Doesn't Fear Because God Hears Him & Will Not Forsake Him

David now shifts from talking about the Lord to talking TO the Lord.

This is a Continuation of that Progressive Intimacy in the Psalm.

Vs. 7 These verses likely represent acknowledgement by David that physically residing in the tent with God all the days of his life may not have been possible.

- In other words, his highest prayer, his greatest desire is to dwell in God's house.
- However, what he DOES know about the character of God is that no matter where he is, God will hear his cries and be gracious to him.

We may read these verses and say "Wow David.....you're pretty demanding.

"Hear me Lord when I cry....."

"Do not hide Your face from me....."

"Do not turn me away in anger....."

"Do not abandon or forsake me...."

These Prayers Represent a Quality of Relationship with God.

These Are the Prayers of a Person Who Understands the Character of God.

- David makes these petitions that are rooted in what He knows about the God He serves.
- This only comes as a result of God pursuing us and us pursuing Him.

When God Whispered in David's Ear to Seek His face, David's Heart Said I Will Seek Your Face

- The **prevenient grace** of God whispered to our hearts that there is more to life than this.
- God courted and wooed us unto Himself. We simply responded to His free gift of salvation.

Vs. 9-10 David Knows That God Will Never Forsake Him

Vs. 9 David acknowledges that God has been his **help** (past tense)

But he also acknowledges that God is his **salvation** going forward.

Vs. 10 Literal translation reads *"If my father & mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up."*

- David uses one of most intimate dependant relationships we have in life to reveal God's grace to us.
 - Even if most trusted & reliable relationships fail me - God you will never fail me.

Principle III: God Hears Us & Will Never Forsake Us

Illustration: TN State law about adoption. Disown biological child, but never an adopted child.

John 1:12-13 *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

IV. Vs. 13-14 Conclusion: If Not For This Relationship - Lost Hope

This last section is a beautiful conclusion to everything David has just penned.

David Shifts to a Second Person Point of View

- I believe this is a statement for both the hearer & David Himself.

Vs. 13 *"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."*

Vs. 14 *"Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage, Yes, wait for the Lord."*

In other words, David's witness of God's goodness has sustained him. He fears no one because he has experienced the goodness of God. When evil does rise up around him, he can rely on what he knows to be true about God. Even though he has not seen God face to face, he has such an intimate understanding of God's heart

Hebrews 11:1 *"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen."*

- We have not seen resurrection with our own eyes.
- We have not seen Jesus face to face.
- We have not seen Heaven.

However, we have been given these promises by God and we have this hope and hope does not disappoint.

Romans 5:5

Romans 8:37-39

We Should have a similar confidence As David

God is our light and salvation. God is our defender. God has revealed His goodness to us.

Whom shall we fear?