

## ***David's one desire: to know God more (Psalm 27:4)***

### ***I. Psalm 27 – A Psalm of David***

- A. A. Psalm 27 is well-known for the famous “Onething” confession. Yet, the context in which this confession is made is often overlooked. David composed Psalm 27 in a time of trouble, surrounded by enemies. In verses 1–6, he offers a confession of faith; in verses 7–12, a plea; and he closes with renewed faith in verses 13–14.

**“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 came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.” (Psalm 27:1-3, NKJV)**

- B. David declares his faith that God is his light, salvation, and the strength of his life—therefore he fears no one. This deep trust in God was formed through many repeated trials in his life, where he experienced God's faithful deliverance.
- C. The famous confession in verse 4 includes four key verbs: seek, dwell, behold, and inquire. David articulates his desire for God's beauty in concrete, action-oriented terms. Likewise, if we desire to know God and experience His beauty and power, we also need a concrete lifestyle plan to pursue this.

**“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: 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 inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.” (Psalm 27:4-6, NKJV)**

- D. In verse 5, David mentions three places: the pavilion, the tabernacle, and the rock—expressing his concrete belief in God's protection. While we may not know the exact physical location of these, David's faith was not abstract. If we were to write our own psalm, what kind of faith would we confess?
- E. Verses 7–12 follow a common pattern in the Psalms: the tension between faith and reality. David, facing harsh realities, cries out for God to reveal His face and power. This is also our daily confession—and God responds to such faith.

**“Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. ... Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!” (Psalm 27:7-14, NKJV)**

- F. In the last two verses, David proclaims three things to his own soul: trust in God's goodness (cf. Psalm 23:6), be strong and of good courage, and wait on the Lord. Even when we face difficulties, like David, we can encourage ourselves to “wait” for the Lord. This “waiting” shows us how we should live until the reality of God's power and authority is poured out into our lives.

## ***II. David's Lifelong Desire: A Life Lived Before God's Presence***

- A. As seen in Psalm 27, David had a lifelong desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord, to behold His beauty, and to intercede within His temple. This was not a retirement plan—it was his life vision, and he sought to fulfill it.

**“Lord, remember David and all his afflictions; how he swore to the Lord, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: ‘Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.’” (Psalm 132:1-5, NKJV)**

- B. David devoted his life to experiencing the manifest presence of God on the earth. He passionately brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, established the tent of David, and initiated worship before God's presence. He knew the value of God's beauty and power being released into the earth.

**“Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.” (Psalm 69:9, NKJV)**

- C. What is the “most important value” in our lives? And how are we living in pursuit of that value? Like David, we wrestle between faith and reality, hoping for God's power to be poured out in our circumstances. And yet, even in hardship, David never abandoned his one thing—his lifelong desire—and he never stopped pursuing it.
- D. We are entering a time in history where value is no longer what shapes culture, but instead, rapid technological advancement and national survival have taken center stage. True value is being sidelined. This shift is likely irreversible, and nations are turning inward for stability rather than reaching outward.

- E. In such a time, what is needed most—just as in the early church—is the power of the Kingdom of God. And this Kingdom power will be released through those who know God (Knowledge of God), like David, and those who intercede for His work. These will be people rooted in reality but gripped by heavenly purpose.

**“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: 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 inquire in His temple.” (Psalm 27:4, NKJV)**

- F. Do we have a “one thing,” a lifelong desire? How are we living in pursuit of it? We must give highest priority to the Knowledge of God, both personally and in our communities, and walk with wholehearted devotion toward it.