

Still See God's Goodness – Aug. 10, 2022

Song inspired tonight's message.

People inspire each other. What is our witness in bad times? *Here is David's:*

Psalm 27:13 (NIV) – “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”

(NKJV) – “I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.”

Some people do lose heart. Some get up with faith. How?

Key to hope for future is to believe, with confidence, in God. Know Him.

When you go through something hard, you have to grab onto something you can trust. Know the promises of God.

Let's look at all David was going through when he wrote this.

Psalm 27:

1 – Part 1

Ps. 27:1-6 – NIV -The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

2 - When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

3 - Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

4 - 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 & to *seek him* in his temple.

5 - For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and *set me high upon a rock*.

6 - Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; *I will sing and make music to the Lord*.

- David is running for his life. Saul has an army against him.
 - David knows: **focus** on God, not the problem/giant. *Dwell there*.
 - David knows: His life is in God's hands, He can trust God.
 - **Nahum 1:7 (Cont Eng V)** – “The LORD is good. He protects those who trust him in times of trouble.”
 - U hated? World against you? Persecuted? You're not alone.
 - Whatever you're going thru now, God is able to set you “high upon a rock” – to rise above it. – **David knew this**.
 - God lifted **Joseph** from a pit. Became 2d in command.
 - God lifted **Moses** from fugitive to Rescuer, Leader.

- God lifted **Abraham/Sarah**. Have hope: Son is on the way.
- God lifted **Jacob**. I'll protect you, get you back home.
- God lifted **Esther**. Life's hard, but you were born...
- Jesus lifted Woman at the Well. You're better than this.
- Jesus lifted Thomas. Don't doubt. I'm still here, with you.
- Jesus lifted Peter. Forget the past, look to the future.
- Jesus lifted Mary & Martha. You'll see Lazarus again.
- Know that you are an overcomer. Survivor. Thriver. Victor.
 - God is lifting you, too. Test is your testimony.
 - When it seems like nothing is working out right, remember this: **Jer. 29:11** – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
 - God wants us to live w/ happiness, joy, live in peace; True! So be confident – **“I will sing and make music to the Lord.”**
 - Joy comes in the morning. Future is good. God is good.

2 - Part 2

Psalm 27:8-10 – “Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.

8 My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, Lord, I will seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

- David leaves home for palace, we hear nothing more of his family.
 - Saul has turned his back against him, tho David was loyal.
 - Closet friend Jonathan, gone.
 - Often, we look for help everywhere but God: Bottle, pills, people . . . only 1 who can change our circumstances – give us direction. God is the 1 person we can count on.
 - David knows lonely, but he also knows God. **God won't forsake us.**
 - **Deut. 31:8 (NIV) – Moses says to Joshua** – “The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”
 - Joshua was next in line. This would impact David.
 - **What we go thru isn't unique.** Bible has Story for u.
 - The tests become our testimony. What's yours?

- Rick Warren said: “Our greatest witness to the world is how we handle pain... Your greatest ministry will come out of your deepest pain.”
- What legacy do you leave? Start now. Change it.

3 – Part 3

Psalm 27:11-14 - Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

12 - Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.

13 - **I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.**

14 - Wait for the Lord; be strong and **take heart and wait for the Lord.**

- People lie. Say hurtful things. Malicious: Intending harm. Kill David.
 - What others mean for harm, God intends for good. **Gen. 50:20**
 - You don't have to defend yourself. Keep going forward.
 - Often, we go in circles. Have trouble getting past it. Through.
 - “Lead me in a straight path” ... keep doing the right thing, God will get you where you need to be. There's a plan for you.
- David knows God - so He can **be confident** good things are coming.
- **“I would have despaired had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord, In the land of the living” (Amp)**
 - If you have lost heart, in despair – this verse is for you.
 - You're not alone. Not forsaken. God will lift u up.
 - You have better days are ahead. This is the **land of the living.**
 - Keep living. Move Forward. Grab a Promise of God.
 - You're promise just might be this verse.
- David is an optimist – b/c he has faith. He can see the **crown.**
 - His circumstances didn't indicate he would be king. Faith did.
 - Feeling stuck? No change? Can't see your crown? Learn from David – “take heart, & wait for the Lord”
 - God changes things. God is a good God. Goodness still ahead.

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated. Stay Confident!

Song of the week: **“The Goodness”**- TobyMac, Blessing Offor