

## **Psalm 27, 1-10, 17**

1. *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?*
2. *When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,  
came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.*
3. *Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid,  
and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.*
4. *One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,*
5. *To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple.*
6. *For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter;  
  
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me  
and set me high upon a rock.*
7. *And now shall he lift up my head above my enemies round about me;*
8. *Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.*
9. *Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy upon me an answer me.*
10. *My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.*
17. *Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart;  
wait patiently for the Lord.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation:  
**he is the strength of my life.**

Psalm 27 is a song of confidence (vv.1-6), like Psalm 23, followed by a lament. It may be two independent psalms, or it can be seen as one psalm describing the experience of a fugitive, who seeks refuge in the temple. On the way he sings of his confidence in the Lord, and on arrival pours out his distress.

The psalmist is suffering from enemies, who tear him apart. His complete trust in God is his light and deliverer, which cast out his fear. His one desire is to reach the temple. There he will find refuge and contemplate the beauty of the place. "Behold the beauty of the Lord" may mean looking at the ark.

"In the day of trouble", when his enemies come forward to condemn him, he will be exalted over them, as the rock on which the temple stood was exalted over Jerusalem. In gratitude he will present a thank offering.

This is followed by a prayer for hearing, acceptance, guidance and deliverance. At the end, he is urged to show strength and courage and to wait expectantly for the saving power of God.

We can sometimes find ourselves in situations which we can't control. We can be attacked for our faith, accused of hypocrisy, or meet indifference. We may have difficult decisions to make, experience relationship problems, or be faced with a problem like the current pandemic, which changes our lives and makes us feel vulnerable and uncertain.

But for us, Jesus Christ is 'our light and salvation', he is the face of God, coming to be with us and alongside us in this world. He showed us that God is always present, that love is always there and even increases in times of trouble, as happens in times of war or, as we are now seeing, in a crisis such as the present pandemic.

We can go to a beautiful place, a fine church, a cathedral or a place in nature, where we can find peace and be aware of the presence of God, our light in the midst of the troubles of the world. Then, like the psalmist, we shall praise God and find our peace.

## **Prayer**

God, our light and our salvation,  
illuminate our lives,  
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,  
and, looking on your beauty,  
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

(From Reflections on the Psalms)