

Series: Psalms

Title: Wait, I Say, On the LORD!

Text: Psalm 27:7-14

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One thing is certain about the life of the believer. Whenever there is a season of joy, trouble is sure to follow. Our Lord promised it. Our experience verifies it. But there is a reason for trials and troubles.

Proposition: Through every trial God teaches his child that God is faithful and that we are to rely only upon the Lord.

Subject: Wait, I Say On the LORD!

We have looked at Psalm 27 as it relates to our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, tonight I want to look at it as it relates to our trials as believers. We will take it verse by verse.

LOOK TO THE LORD ALONE

Psalm 27: 10: When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

First, the Lord alone is the one we are to look unto and believe upon. By speaking of those nearest and dearest to us forsaking us, he teach us this goes for all men—including ourselves. We are far too prone to put confidence in men—in ourselves and in other men. This is one reason we are often badly disappointed.

The Lord Jesus quoted from Micah several times. You will recognize it. But I want you to see the point of why the Lord said this.

Micah 7: 5: Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

We are to love our nearest friends. We should honor those God has given to be our guide for their works sake. We should be open and honest with our spouse. But we are all weak sinful flesh. We are not to put confidence in any mere man. Why?

Micah 7: 6: For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies *are* the men of his own house.

If brethren or men ask us to do something, we ought to try our best to never disappoint. When we see our brethren surrounded by enemies or cast down, we ought to stand with them and let them know we do. But when it comes to us and the dealings of brethren or men toward us, do not be disappointed when men fail you. We are all only sinners.

Yet, we should put all confidence in the LORD—“*When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.*” Our Lord Jesus experienced his nearest and dearest loved ones forsaking him. But who was his confidence. He said,

John 16:32: Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

Christ had the covenant promises of God the Father. Therefore, Christ stood in the room and stead of his people and answered justice on our behalf. He did so knowing that when the necessary forsaking was over, his Father would be with him.

Now that our Substitute has satisfied justice for each one for whom he died, he will never forsake one of us who he purchased with his own blood. He told Joshua,

Joshua 1: 5: There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Isaiah 41: [To his church he says] 15: Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat *them* small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. 16: Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, *and* shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

That is going to create some enemies for us but he continues with this promise,

Isaiah 41: 17: *When* the poor and needy seek water, and *there is* none, *and* their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, *I* the God of Israel will not forsake them.

The chief lesson declared in Christ crucified is the righteousness of God. God is the Just Judge. He always does what is just and right. He is no respecter of persons. When the holy, spotless, only begotten Son of God was obedient unto the death of the cross, part of that obedience was submitting to have God lay on him the iniquity of all his people. When sin was found on his Son, *God spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all* because it was just to do so. The whole purpose of the cross was to declare that God is righteous; he will by no means clear the guilty and to justify guilty sinners like us, he had to so in a righteous and just way for:

Proverbs 17:15: He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

Here is the good news to sinners like us, since God is righteous he will never forsake one who he has made righteous in Christ. Abraham knew this and this was his plea for Lot,

Genesis 18: 25: That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Genesis 18: 32: And [the LORD] said, [if there be but ten righteous men in Sodom] I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

Deuteronomy 16: 18 [God said of his judges what is true of himself] they shall judge the people with just judgment. 19: Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous. 20: That which is altogether just shalt thou follow...

Deuteronomy 25: 1: If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that *the judges* may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.

So we put no confidence in sinful flesh. But we put all confidence in the LORD.

TEACH ME THY WAY, O LORD

Psalm 27: 11: Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. 12: Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

Knowing the LORD will not forsake us, our plea is for the LORD to teach us and lead us and keep us from our enemies.

Back in the 80's God sent the gospel to me and called by his effectual grace. The same grace that drew me to Christ and made me willing to believe on him has kept me all these years under the same gospel, in the same church, listening to the same faithful pastors. And anyone who stands with Christ knows what it is to have lots of enemies.

So we pray LORD—*“Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.”* Every enemy a believer has is stronger than us: from our sin nature and the devil to those who bear false witness against us and breathe out cruelty. There is nothing we can do to stop our enemies. Have you ever felt helpless to do a thing to stop false accusations and such? God makes it so that all you can do is ask God to keep us.

Not only are our enemies too strong, they are far too deceptive for us dumb sheep. Christ said,

Matthew 24: 24: For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Christ's enemies did not all breathe out cruelty publicly. Listening to most speak publicly they sounded like they were for God receiving all glory. But privately they rose up against him and breathed out cruelty. He said,

Psalm 56:5: Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. 6: They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.

But God uses our enemies to bring us to the end of ourselves so that all we can say is, *“Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.”* And God does so. He teaches us his way is Christ the Way! Our Wisdom is not our own, Christ is doing all things as wisely as did when he justified his people on the cross. Our Power is not our own, Christ is the Power of God who holds us in his hand.

Also, God leads us in a plain path by his word, his gospel. God makes us hear Christ speak in his word—the incorruptible seed—by which the gospel is preached unto you. Then God makes us go to his word to make certain of what God says. God by his Spirit makes his child drop error, drop every false way and every treacherous path and hold on to the truth which glorifies God in Christ.

What an all-powerful God we have. He is even able to use our enemies to bring his word to his child so that we see the way more plainly!

Psalm 25: 12: What man *is* he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way *that* he shall choose.

Proverbs 2: 8: He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. 9: Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.

In the light of Christ, in all his providence and all his word God makes us understand the truth of God, as he teaches us the way that brings all the glory to Christ and God our Father and none to the sinner, “*Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.*”

STRENGTH THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST

Psalm 27: 13: *I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

The strength God gives us is through faith in Christ alone. Remember, Paul said *we faint not*. God gives me a word for Sunday and puts me through the clinical on Monday. I can say, if it were left to me, I would surely faint.

But the Holy Spirit increases our faith in Christ. It is due to Christ that we do not faint. But without faith relying entirely upon Christ alone, we would certainly faint without strength—“*I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*”

I press upon you who have never believed on Christ and proved it by confessing him publicly, cast all your care on him. Without Christ you have nothing; with Christ we have All!

THREE WORDS TO FOLLOW

Lastly, having seen these things, the LORD gives us three words to follow. This is what the LORD teaches his child through this use of our enemies in every trial.

Psalm 17: 14: **Wait on the LORD:**

We are now sinners, living in a now age and we want the answer now. I use to ask my grandfather questions concerning the scriptures. Many times he would not answer. It did two things: it made me hang on every word he preached to see if I could hear an answer and it made me search God’s word. In short, it made me wait on the Lord.

God makes us wait so that we learn to wait on the LORD to teach me and to teach my brethren. God teaches us to wait on the LORD to strengthen me and to strengthen my brethren.

Waiting on the LORD to teach our brethren will stop us from being overtaken by a bitter root, keep us from forsaking one another, and it will make us keep the door open. Waiting on the LORD will make us forgive one another because we are waiting on the LORD to teach them. Christ who is Love commands us to lay down our lives for one another as he laid down his life for us. So we lay down our lives by waiting on the LORD to get glory to himself for teaching our brethren.

Concerning those who appear our enemies, if we wait on the LORD then we will not pass judgment on them.

1 Corinthians 4:5: Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, [that means we have to wait on the LORD] who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

When we try to run and fix things ourselves it is no different than trying to make ourselves righteous by our own works. Did God turn us from that in the first hour? He is able to do the same when his child refuses to wait on him.

Remember when the Lord told Israel their strength was to be quiet and have confidence in the Lord? But they saw all these problems in Israel and they fled on swift horses. And because they would not wait...

Isaiah 30:18: And therefore will the LORD wait,...

He said he would wait till all your branches are broken off and you have no strength, no wisdom, no more swift horses upon which to flee.

Isaiah 30: 18:...that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him....20: And *though* the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: 21: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This *is* the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

God will not allow his child to err to the right hand or the left—his promise is that he will keep us walking in the way! He will never deliver us over to the will of our enemies—never!

Psalm 27: 14...Be of good courage.

Our sinful flesh makes it so easy to lose courage but Paul told the Corinthians,

1 Corinthians 16:13: Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

2 Timothy 4:5: But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

We are to be of good courage in in the LORD's strength not ours! When our Redeemer hung on the cross, who was his strength?

Isaiah 50: 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8: *He is* near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who *is* mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9: Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who *is* he *that* shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

Psalm 27: 14:...and he shall strengthen thine heart:

So this is the third thing he teaches us, he shall strengthen thine heart. Heart strength is far better than bodily strength. When our bodies fail, he shall strengthen thine heart.

Isaiah 40:29: He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. 30: Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

When the trial is over—until the next trial is needed—we will rejoice again, knowing a little better to put all our confidence in the Lord our Strength and none in our flesh. Therefore, “*wait, I say, on the LORD.*”

Amen!