

A. FAVOR & FELLOWSHIP

- In the second part of Psalm 27 we find a significant shift in tone. David goes from confident assurance in God to emotion-filled prayers for help.
- Up to this point, David was encouraged by God's past faithfulness. Now we see him pressing into the Secret Place to experience the favor and fellowship of the Lord: Psalm 27:7-14 NAS-- Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me. ⁸ *When You said, "Seek My face,"* my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek." ⁹ Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me up. ¹¹ Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a level path because of my foes. ¹² Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. ¹³ *I would have despaired* unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.
- All believers have days or seasons when they feel out of touch with God, David wisely took these feelings directly to the Lord vs. entertaining doubts or complaints.
- This part of the psalm gives us more insight into the process of waiting on God. David's prayers are good ones for us to use when feeling disconnected or anxious:
 1. Asking for God to listen (v, 7)
 - Ps 34:15--The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their cry.
 - Jer 29:12 NAS--You will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you
 2. Requesting that His answers be revealed (v, 7b)
 - Ps 91:15 NLT--When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.
 - Mt 7:7 NLT--Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.
 3. Pleading the promises of God (v 8)
 - 1 Jn 5:14-15 NAS--This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.
 4. Asking Him to see our hearts rather than our wavering minds and emotions (v..8)
 - 1 Sam 16:7 NLT--The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
 - 1 Kg 8:39 AMP--You alone know the hearts of all the children of men,
 5. Petitioning for the Lord's nearness and faithfulness when our faith is tested (v. 9)
 - Dt 31:6 MSG--Be strong. Take courage. Don't be intimidated. Don't give them a second thought because GOD, your God, is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you
 - James 4:8—Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

- When the waiting seems long and we feel powerless against our circumstances, let our first response be to seek our God's favor and fellowship in prayer!
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
What is your first response when God seems distant, and your faith is lacking?
(Numb out, get busy, phone a friend, express your feelings to God in prayer, other)

When you think about turning to the Lord and laying out all your issues before Him, do you:

a) *Feel confident that He is waiting for you and willing to listen?*

b) *Entertain thoughts that God wouldn't welcome you?*

c) *Doubt that your prayers will have any impact on your circumstances?*

d) *Something else?*

Lord, we ask that You show us any mindset or past event that would hinder us from coming boldly to You in prayer either now or in the days to come.

- Insights:

B. GATHER & GUIDE

- David was certain that the Lord would "gather, receive or take in" his dear child if he ever faced rejection or abandonment from those closest to him. (v, 10) (H622)
- God is more than able to fill any deficits we may experience in our key relationships. Exploring this worst-case scenario helped David arrive at a place of hope.
- There's hope when we realize that we can withstand rejection and hurt from people because the Lord can perfectly heal and satisfy our hearts as we wait on Him.

- David prays for his inmost needs to be met in these verses. (vv. 7 – 12) We find a summary of these basic emotional necessities in Boice's commentary on this psalm.
- Examine each of these needs and find strength in God's promises to take care of His children:
 1. Being Heard/Understood (v. 7)
 - Psalm 139:1, 4 NLT-- O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me...You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.
 - 1 Chron 28:9 NIV-- the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you
 2. Acceptance (vv. 8-9)
 - Heb13:5 AMP—"I WILL NEVER [under any circumstances] DESERT YOU [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], NOR WILL I FORSAKE or LET YOU DOWN or RELAX MY HOLD ON YOU [assuredly not]!"
 - Is 49:15 NIV-- Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!
 3. Guidance/Teaching (v. 11)
 - Prov 4:11 NIV--I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.
 - Ps 25:4-5--Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.
 4. Protection (v. 12)
 - Prov 16:7--When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
 - Is 54:17--No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* from Me," says the LORD.
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
As you think about the places where you are waiting, ask Holy Spirit to show you which of these emotional areas is in the greatest need of ministry right now and why:

Will you press into God's presence and pray? Ask Him to use His resources, His "riches in glory in Christ Jesus," to meet that need in creative and manifold ways:

- There is no biblical record of David being abandoned by his parents, but we know that he, like each of us, was subject to times of rejection, opposition and loneliness.
- In those seasons, may we choose to wait on God to deliver us from despair and to equip us to overcome by His mighty Spirit within us: Rom 8:37 AMP--Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors *and* gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us].

