



VINTAGE**CHURCH**

# PSALM 27

## Reading Guide

July 7 - 13

# PSALM 27

**1** *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 evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.*

**3** *Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.*

**4** *One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.*

**5** *For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.*

**6** *And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.*

**7** *Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!*

**8** *You have said, "Seek my face."*

*My heart says to you,*

*"Your face, LORD, do I seek."*

**9** *Hide not your face from me.*



*Turn not your servant away in anger,  
O you who have been my help.*

*Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!*

**10** *For my father and my mother have forsaken me,  
but the LORD will take me in.*

**11** *Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.*

**12** *Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.*

**13** *I believe 6 that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!*

**14** *Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!*



## DAY 1

Read through Psalm 27 once writing down what you find interesting, what you find helpful, and what you don't fully understand.

Read through the notes on Psalm 27 in the *ESV Study Bible*\*. Write at least one paragraph highlighting what you learned from the study notes.

Praying Psalm 27 both gives you words to express confidence in God and also helps cultivate confidence in God, "for the widest range of challenging life situations."<sup>1</sup>

Reread Psalm 20, personalizing the Psalm as your own prayer. Write out that prayer.

## DAY 2

Read through Psalm 27 again.

In verses 13–14 we see the Psalm ending with David "holding on in naked faith,"<sup>2</sup> for God hasn't answered him yet. And so he is left waiting for the Lord (verse 14), believing God will make good on his promises (verse 13). David is left waiting for God. "To wait for the Lord is to look to him with dependence and trust, not passivity."<sup>3</sup>

Read through the Psalm again, writing down some of the things that David believes about who God is and what God does. Now read the Psalm again, writing down some of the reasons David has to fear. Compare the reasons for David's fear to his confidence in who God is and what God does. Write a few sentences that explain the reasons David can wait with confidence, even in the face of danger.

We also wait in the face of danger: We face the challenges of a world and people that operate contrary to the way God designed them to operate; we face our own temptations and struggles with sin; we face the attacks of Satan. As we struggle against these enemies who are opposed to God and his ways, we do so confident that Jesus has conquered them. Therefore we wait "for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

We see a similar confidence in the hymn "Oft in Danger, Oft in Woe" by Henry Kirke White and Frances Sara Colquhoun.

Oft in danger, oft in woe,  
Onward, Christians, onward go,  
Fight the fight, maintain the strife,  
Strengthened with the Bread of Life.

Onward, Christians, onward go,

<sup>1</sup> *ESV Study Bible*, introductory notes on Psalm 27.

<sup>2</sup> D. Kinder, *Psalms 1–72*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 122.

<sup>3</sup> *ESV Study Bible*, notes on Psalm 27:14.



Join the war, and face the foe;  
Faint not, much doth yet remain;  
Dreary is the long campaign.

Shrink not, Christians: will ye yield?  
Will ye quit the painful field?  
Will ye flee in danger's hour?  
Know ye not your Captain's pow'r?

Let your drooping hearts be glad;  
March, in heav'nly armor clad;  
Fight, nor think the battle long;  
Vict'ry soon shall tune your song.

Let not sorrow dim your eye,  
Soon shall ev'ry tear be dry;  
Let not woe your course impede,  
Great your strength, if great your need.

Onward then to battle move;  
More than conqu'rors ye shall prove:  
Though opposed by many a foe,  
Christian soldiers, onward go.

Write out some things that will change when Jesus returns, specifically stating the ways they will change. Write out a prayer to Jesus, asking him to change those things now and asking him to return, bringing a permanency to the change he brings. End your prayer quoting verses 13-14 as a way of reaffirming your trust in God and your confidence that your trust in him is enough.

### DAY 3

Read through Psalm 27 again, thinking about a specific challenging situation in your life that connects with all or part of this Psalm.

As you read through Psalm 27, copy the verses in which David gives words to the things you fear in this specific situation. Copy the verses in which David gives words to the things you hope in this specific situation.

Now think back on a similar situation where you've experienced God's deliverance in the past. Write out a sentence or more explaining the situation and the way God delivered you.

Write out verses 7-9 as the start of a prayer to God, asking him to bring you deliverance from the specific situation you are facing right now. Continue that prayer, honestly processing your fears and hopes with God, using verses from Psalm 27 to give words to your fears and hopes, if you find that helpful. End your prayer by quoting verses 13-14 and verse 1.



**DAY 4**

Read through Psalm 27 again.

Read verses 4–6. Write down the things that David experiences and the benefits he knows when he is in public worship with God’s people.

When you gather with God’s people in for a worship service, your experience can be similar to David’s. Read verses 4–6 again. Write down the things you both experience and the things you would like to experience in the public worship you will attend this week. Turn those into a prayer of thanksgiving and supplication, thanking God for what he does and asking him to do what he has promised to do.

**DAY 5**

Read through Psalm 27 twice.

Write out at least two paragraphs reflecting on what you’ve learned about God, yourself, and others from Psalm 27. Write out at least one thing you hope to apply to your life from Psalm 27.

Spend at least 15 minutes sharing what you wrote with a trusted friend or family member. If they read Psalm 27 this week, ask them to do the same. End your time in prayer, thanking God for what he taught you this week.

\*Purchasing an ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Bibles, 2008.) will aid you in your understanding of the Psalms. The first day’s reading each week assumes you will have access to the notes in the ESV Study Bible. The ESV Study Bible is the most comprehensive study Bible ever published. It will help you understand not just the Psalms, but also the rest of the Bible in a deeper way. You can either buy the Bible ([amazon.com](http://amazon.com), search: ESV Study Bible) or purchase online access to the notes at [www.esvbible.org](http://www.esvbible.org).

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