

Sunday January 13, 2019
“My Heart Shall Not Fear” Pt II
Psalm 27

Last week we talked about fear. Is it possible to truly say, *My Heart Shall Not Fear?*

Read Psalm 27:1-14

In this Psalm, David transparently wrestles through many of his fears. He identifies what he is doing about them right now. And He identifies what He will do about them in the future.

I. Identify Your Fears

- a. David is afraid of enemies
- b. David is afraid God will be absent
- c. David is afraid from loneliness
- d. David is afraid from false accusations

Have you legit identified your fears openly before God? Not just your circumstances, but your fears? The presence of the Lord is a safe place to do that.

II. Firmly Declare the Lord as Your Strength

He may not eliminate the source of fear itself, but He will be there in the future to help you deal with it. It is an exciting moment when you receive strength from the Lord to address your fears instead of running from them or being overtaken by them. Watch how this Psalm begins and ends.

Vs 1

Vs 13-14

III. Anticipate God’s Protection and Provision in Time

We’ve already talked about **identifying** your fears. And about **declaring** God as your **strength**.

But as you face situations wrought with fear, in each one, you must actively Anticipate God’s mighty role in bringing His protection and provision in time. **Vs 14** contains the only commands for us in the entire Psalm...

This does not mean that all problems and fears cease...

It does not mean that all enemies immediately fall...

It does not mean that dark days are gone forever...

But look at the example of one who is anticipating God's protection and provision in the course of time...

Vs 2-3 (I will be confident...) This kind of sound instantaneous – but he's actually referring to a steadfast process.

Vs 5 (He will hide me; He will conceal me; He will lift me high)

There's a lot of confident future tense coming forth from the lips of a person being troubled by fear. But, there is no timeline given for the desired results... ***Just a steady, forward looking, confident trust in God and His timing.***

In fact while vs 5 indicates protection from the enemy of fear, it emphasizes a bonded closeness with God. Perhaps this is the reason why God has allowed the fear in the first place... so we'd draw close to Him in a close intimate way.

One summer night during a severe thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small son into bed. She was about to turn the light off when he asked in a trembling voice, "Mommy, will you stay with me all night?" Smiling, the mother gave him a warm, reassuring hug and said tenderly, "I can't dear. I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

A long silence followed. At last it was broken by a shaky voice saying, "He's a big sissy!"

Though there may be times of fear, God can use that fear to deepen our trust in Him in the course of time.

God made us for process and sequence. In fact, that's really what Time itself is – the measurement of processes and sequence of events. Though He Himself stands outside of time, He uses sequence of events and process to accomplish His perfect plan in our lives. **One of His biggest plans for us is**

to develop our faith in Him – so that we can serve Him and give Him glory in a greater way.

In **vs 13** – David is confident that He will see the goodness of the Lord (answer to his prayers) in the land of the living – before his earthly days are done.

But in **14**, He urges us to wait on the Lord. There is a balance between the two. But He knows as God works in his life over time, he WILL reap the rich rewards.

As we work through our fears, and **as we anticipate God’s Protection and Provision in TIME**, it is very important to AVOID two tendencies:

Avoid:

- Pushing faster than what God intends (impatience)
- Lagging behind when God moves forward (procrastination or even indifference)

In my experience, I have struggled with both of these tendencies, and I find that many people do as well.

We impatiently push faster than what God intends – because we want immediate results and we fear that a lingering process will stall out. We want slow processes to end quicker and want to arrive at the satisfying “destination” without a travelling process.

More and more, we live in an instant gratification culture in every way imaginable. This has translated into a very impatient mindset with most people. The advance of technology has been astounding in the last 20 years, and it has helped our culture in immeasurable ways. But it has also hastened the demise of patience in most people’s minds. We’ll have more to say about that in coming weeks.

But I want to remind you that Patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5). When you walk closely with the Lord, He’ll develop within you the Patience you need to wait on Him -even amidst fear.

More than ever, we are impatient with God... **and it is driven by a fear of waiting**. But waiting on God isn’t a new phenomenon to us today. It was hard in

King David's day as well. **Vs 14.** This verse is bookended by a plea to wait on God – double emphasis.

If you're about to give up on God, you're going to miss out if you stop trusting Him through this season.

If you're trying to bargain with God to speed up the process, you're bound to be disappointed.

You know what bargaining with God looks like, don't you?

"...God if you do this or that, I'll trust you. Otherwise, I'm out." - this is driven by a fear of waiting.

We also tend to lag behind when God moves. Far too often, when God is prompting us to make a decision for His glory – like serving Him in ministry, or quitting a bad habit, or going public with our faith, or building spiritual disciplines into our lives – too many times we lag behind and find ourselves no further along than we were 6 months or a year ago when He was moving and burdening us forward. It takes courage and faith to follow the momentum that God is generating around us. If God is urging you forward to trust Him in spite of a monumental fear, it is because something far better lies beyond that fear. If you lag behind too long, you'll miss it altogether. *Maybe your fear is actually nothing more than faithlessness.*

Once upon a time, two birds lived near a farmer's garden. They knew there were delicious treasures in that garden. But they were afraid to eat what was there because of the Scarecrow the farmer had placed nearby. One day, one of the birds started thinking that Scarecrow might just be a silly trick. Was it really going to come alive and do something to him if he flew in there? So the bird felt brave and took a chance while the other bird just sat there and watched. The brave bird ate and ate until he was so happy and full that he could barely fly. The cowardly bird watched enviously, but just kept glancing at the Scarecrow fearing the worst if he flew in there.

The next day, the brave and full happy bird kept tweeting words of encouragement to his cowardly friend. "That was the best, most luscious food I've ever had. That Scarecrow is just a trick to keep us away from the treasure in that garden! I'm going in for more." But the cowardly bird didn't buy it. He

watched his friend enjoying his reward from a safe distance, hoping that mean nasty Scarecrow might just go away.

The third day came. The brave bird was growing more confident. In his confidence, he started thinking even differently about the Scarecrow. "Maybe it isn't a trick at all to keep us away. Maybe it is supposed to be an advertisement proclaiming that this is where the best food is!" So the brave bird started flying around the area, *looking for Scarecrows*. He soon realized that farmers only put scarecrows in their gardens if there is something really good in there. The brave bird had a whole new world opened up to him when he realized that his fear had been ruining his life. All the while, the cowardly bird was still in the same place, hoping that mean old Scarecrow would just go away before he would fly in.

True Courageous faith is a bird who fearlessly looks for Scarecrows.

For some here, your fear is bigger than your faith in God. Your fear of commitment. Your fear of obedience. Your fear of failing. Your fear of looking silly. These fears are normal to have, but you need to start seeing them as Scarecrows instead of enemies.

Verse 1. God will show His mighty hand over it all in time as your faith in Him remains steadfast.

In David's case, he seems most concerned about vicious enemies. They're not fake Scarecrows at all. He mentions evildoers, adversaries, foes, an army encamped against him, and enemies all around him. Certainly if that was our #1 prayer request, we'd bring it to God with a sense of urgency and even panic.

For David, God had given him a calm, steadfast confidence that He would handle it. No timeframes. No artificial deadlines. No bargaining with God. David wasn't seeking those things. Instead, he was intently seeking the face of the Lord.

Verse 5-6

This is not a bargain with God. This is anticipation of his deepened relationship with God on the other side of this fear. He anticipates the victorious results so that He can sacrifice, and worship God.

In closing, there one phrase that stands out to me in this Psalm that make all the difference when saying, "My Heart Shall Not Fear." Those words are in vs 4

IV. Pray About An Increasing Closeness to God

This is the most important thing! ONE THING... He wants to be near the Lord. Awed by Him. Close to Him. He wants an Increasing closeness to God.

Don't dwell on the fear. Don't ponder the what if's. Bring it before the Lord and Leave it in God's Hands. If, during a fearful struggle, if you can pray about an increasing closeness to God like vs 4, then you can truthfully say, My Heart Shall Not Fear.

Instrumental noodling