

# Brynmawr Family Church Sermon

Psalm 27

Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009

## Intro

- David having an army encamping against him, waiting to kill him. We are not in a physical, but a spiritual battle, the enemy has a Fatwah against us, and would love to intimidate us to cause us to give up, but we already have the victory in Christ. Even when boxed in by the enemy David perceived the victory he had in God. Do we?

## v3 'In this I will be confident'- David had confidence in God's help during times of trouble (v1-3)

- v1-'Light'- God is able to guide us and help us- our Sat Nav through danger & tricky situations (David steered away from Saul & his men in wilderness); 'Salvation'- God able to save us from all; 'Strength'- God more powerful than all- Wendy with Aslan
- v2-The wicked do not have the sat nav- they are walking in darkness & will stumble & fall- take a long term view- although they may prosper for a season it is fleeting- all have to account to God in the end. Saul was eventually taken out and David prospered due to his trust in God's leading
- v3- 'in this I will be confident'- i.e. God's protection- we have a choice when trouble comes- worry or trust- as we speak out our trust, like David, our fears are subdued. When we speak negatively in moaning, or panic it is unbelief in God's protection or provision- e.g. Pike 'we're doomed', Israel in wilderness. It is offensive to God because it displays more faith in the enemy's ability than in God's. From the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
- Application- repent of confessions of unbelief and deal with your present worries by meditating on God's attributes and speaking out your trust in God. Faith requires an action (see bk James)- the primary action is speaking out the faith inside (see Rom)- David did this by putting it into a psalm.

## David did not focus on the problems, but on God's presence (v4-10)

- Focus on problems blocks our view of God who is greater than our problems- as we shift our gaze to Him our problems come into perspective
- v4- David's focus- the presence of God- the 'one thing'. As foundation is right all else falls into place
- v5-'He shall hide me'- God's protection- that no one can take our life until it is time to go (Jesus walking through the mob). David died of old age- no one took his life (not Goliath, Philistines, Saul or Absalom). Jesus 'don't fear those who kill body but not soul'- The presence is our protection- tabernacle, holding onto the altar, the place of refuge from the avenger of blood- safety in surrender to God, from all darts of evil one- Rom 8 'no condemnation', 'high upon a rock' -like Petra in Jordan or an impregnable fortress such as Masada
- v8-'Seek My face'- 'face' in Hebrew=presence 'get outta my face!'-see Gen 3:18- 'they hid themselves from the presence (lit. 'face') of the Lord'. The temptation when we stumble is to hide from the presence, coming into the presence means stepping into His search-light in openness and honesty 1John 1:5-10- starts with repentance- tough situations can drive us to seek His face, but comfort can lead to complacency. 'Seek my face'- God woos us- intimacy- bride & bridegroom
- v10 'When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me'- our adoption by God is key. David suffered the rejection of his father when he was

left out in the field when Samuel came & asked him to assemble all his sons (1Sam 16:11), as well as rejection from his wife Michal, Saul and his son Absalom. He knew to be secure first & foremost in God's love as Father as his foundation. Desire for acceptance from man leads us to striving & robs our peace. According to Psalm 22 and what Jesus cried out on the cross identified with all those who have experienced being forsaken by someone as He took our pain of rejection upon His own shoulders that we should never be forsaken by the Father, but rather adopted by Him.

- Application- being before doing- get a fresh revelation of God's love as Father. Let all we do come out of the security of intimacy of relationship with God. If priorities have become wrong choose to make changes today. Bring any fears of rejection or hurts from the past to the cross and surrender them, accepting God's favour to us.

### **David had faith for breakthrough this side of Heaven (v11-14)**

- v12- 'False witnesses'- Jesus experienced this in His trials, but He kept silent as it was only a matter of time before God would bring a true report about Him by raising Him from the dead- 'He was raised for our justification'- the resurrection was the Father's way of silencing the accuser of both Jesus and His brethren. When falsely accused we should rely on our standing with God rather than try to justify ourselves. God will bring vindication
- v13- 'I would have lost heart, unless I believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living'- David had faith for deliverance this side of Heaven, and he got it! God vindicated him and placed him on the throne despite his enemies. Faith is not phased by time-scales- for David it took many years, but God did it. Take a long term view- we live in a fast food society, not used to waiting, but the best things in life are worth waiting for. Impatience can abort the vision- Hab 2:2-3. Waleswide list of new church plants in Wales the last 3 years- a sovereign work of God. If we continue in faith the vision He has given to us will be fulfilled
- v14- 'Wait on the Lord'- repeated again due to importance. 2 aspects- time ('wait') and faith ('on the Lord'). 'Wait' here really means continue to trust Him- same as Is 40:31- renewing our strength by waiting in faith on God- relying on Him. 'Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart'- it takes guts to trust God when we feel like giving up, but if we do trust, our feelings will change positively- depression will lift and joy will again fill us. Growth happens on 2 levels- gradual and sudden and both are of God- Jesus 30 years growing in obscurity then sudden breakthroughs- the 12 took years to learn, yet at the same time saw many 'suddenly's of God. Character usually takes time, whilst gifts can flow thick and fast. 'Wait' believes God for the 'suddenly's whilst also not being phased by the process of growth to maturity. How long does it take to make a leader? It takes as long as it takes. How long to plant a church? As long as it takes but note the promise to us in Is 60:22 Desire is key- you will learn an instrument if you really want to, however, there is a growth process, but God can speed things up and bring favour.
- Application- Like David, we must continue in faith despite trials and we too will see the breakthroughs of our God. We know that ultimately God will deliver us from all our troubles in Heaven, but He also wants Heaven's victories to be manifest on earth in our lifetime.

### **Conclusion**

- Like David, choose to display confidence in God's guidance and protection in trials.
- Choose, like David, to make the presence of God your foundation in life.
- Like David, choose to believe God for the breakthrough this side of Heaven, without wavering in faith due to time-scales.