

Glimpses of Godliness from the Psalms  
"Confidence"  
Psalm 27

--CEFC 9/16/18; 1/4/03; 9/28/86 p.m.

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It is a very common experience--  
a young child has a bad dream,  
a nightmare,  
an experience of extreme existential dread,  
and he bursts out in a terrified scream.

The mother races to the bedside,  
embraces the child, and offers comfort:  
"Calm down, Johnny," she says.  
"Everything is OK.  
There is nothing to be afraid of."

There is nothing unusual about this situation—  
I'm sure you've experienced it,  
either as a child or as a parent.  
But Christian sociologist Peter Berger, in his book *Rumor of Angels*,  
argues that there may be more to the mother's comforting words of assurance  
than at first meets the eye.

Is everything really OK?  
Is there really nothing to be afraid of?

In the sense that the nightmare was just a dream,  
a figment of a child's subconscious imagination,  
what the mother says may be perfectly true.  
There is no boogie man under the bed out to devour the poor boy.

But is something else going on here?  
Is the nightmare itself a recognition that there are, in fact,  
malicious forces at work in the world  
that do pose a threat not only to the child but to the mother as well.  
Everything is not OK—  
there are mass murderers with their assault weapons  
who pop up out of nowhere  
and kill at will.

There are mysterious diseases that invade the body and destroy our health.  
There are economic tidal waves that no one seems to be able to control  
that take away our jobs  
and threaten our livelihood.

In the light of all this,  
how can anyone dare say that everything is going to be OK?  
and that there is nothing to be afraid of?

But this is what mothers say to their children—  
and they say it all the time.  
Berger contends that this simple everyday experience of a mother comforting a child  
is one of many  
that suggest that deep inside people really do believe that  
there is some transcendent reality,  
that life is more than the random mixture of atoms that so many confess it to be.

For underneath the mother's words is the conviction that life itself is not some bad dream.  
The mother is tacitly assuming the cosmic role of transcendent comforter,  
giving assurance that life does, in fact, have order,  
and that some personal and beneficent protector stands over it all.  
How else could she make such a bold assertion so easily?  
And isn't that what a mother's comforting embrace  
and a father's protective presence  
are meant to communicate to children—  
that they can face the world with confidence.  
There is someone watching over them for their good.  
"Everything is OK.  
There is nothing to be afraid of."

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It is an interesting thought.  
There are times in all our lives when we wish  
our mother would wrap her arms around us with these words of assurance--  
words to embolden us  
to face the world with confidence—  
words that tell us that there is nothing to be afraid of.  
But could we believe her?  
Would her words be true?

Can anyone have confidence in this code-orange world  
in which there is so much to fear?  
There's the threat of a random shooter or a terrorist bomb,  
the possibility of a sudden heart attack or an accident on the highway,  
the prospect of the loss of someone we love,  
or just the peril of some natural disaster--  
like a violent hurricane.  
How can anyone say, "Everything's going to be OK.  
There's nothing to fear"?

But that's exactly what David the psalmist says in our passage this morning.  
It's a psalm that exudes a fearless confidence.  
And for that reason, it's worth looking at and examining.  
Where does such confidence come from?  
How is it possible?

And we'll see that David the psalmist still struggles to maintain that confidence  
in a world such as ours.

And so will we.

So we must ask,  
which is more real in the world we live in,  
more true to reality--  
the child's nightmare  
or the mother's comforting words of confident assurance?

That is a central question of our human experience.  
Let's go to the word of God for an answer.

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Turn with me to Psalm 27--A psalm of David--  
v. 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?"**

Here is a proclamation of bold and fearless confidence.  
"**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?"**

Notice, the psalmist David has confidence not because he has some vague faith  
in the inherent goodness of being.

His is not some groundless optimism  
that simply chooses to look on the bright side of things.  
No, David has confidence because he knows the Lord his God--  
he knows the Lord's greatness--  
we saw that when we looked at Psalm 29 a few weeks ago--  
The voice of the Lord resounds like the thunder of a massive storm.  
The Lord is a great God.

But more importantly, David knows the Lord's goodness--  
more, specifically, the Lord's goodness to him.

The Lord—the Lord who created the heavens and the earth,  
the Lord who rules over the nations,  
and before whom the mountains are like dust on the scales--  
the Lord is **my light**, shining in the darkness, he says;  
the Lord is **my salvation**, giving victory over my enemies;  
the Lord is the **stronghold**, the fortress, of **my** life.

These are not general theological propositions.  
There is something very personal in these words,  
and that makes all the difference.

The psalmist is confident because he knows that the Lord is **his** God--  
the Lord is *with* him,  
and the Lord is *for* him.

It's that simple.  
Those who know the Lord as their God--  
those who know him as the great and gracious God that he is--

they have no reason to be afraid,  
even in a world like ours. //

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Look again at what David affirms here—

First, he says, the Lord is my **light**—  
and doesn't the world sometimes feel like a very dark place,  
full of unseen dangers ready to jump out at us at any time.  
When a child is afraid at night,  
to comfort them one of the first things we do is turn on a light—  
and the darkness flees  
like so many roaches scurrying for cover.  
The world looks different when the light is on,  
when the sun bursts through the darkness.  
David says, the Lord is **my light**.

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Then he says, the Lord is my **salvation**—  
Don't we all need someone who will pull us out when we're in trouble—  
someone who will push back the enemies pressing in on us,  
someone who will rescue us when we feel helpless.  
As a child, I always felt this way about my father—  
he was a big, powerful man,  
and as a child I had a confidence that if ever I got in jam  
my dad would come to my rescue.  
David had a much bigger father to depend on—  
The Lord was his Savior, **his salvation**.

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Finally, he says, the Lord is the **stronghold** of my life—  
The stronghold is the most secure place you know of;  
it is the place you go when you are in danger.

In the ancient world, a city was always built with walls for protection,  
but within the city there would be a structure of some kind  
that was highly fortified and could be easily defended.  
It was to be a place of retreat if the enemy breached the walls.  
This inner fortress was called a "**stronghold**."

In medieval times, kings and powerful lords would build castles,  
and within the castle walls this fortified stronghold was called the "**keep**."

Within the walled Tower of London, for example,  
the great central **keep** is called the White Tower—  
which was begun in 1078 by William the Conqueror.  
The White Tower is a massive fortress, 100 feet square and 90 feet high,  
with walls 15 feet thick at the base.  
Above the battlements rise four turrets,

where armed guards could be stationed for protection.  
The keep is the most defended area of a castle,  
and it's where you would store weapons  
and keep extra food and water supplies in case of a siege.

I suppose, the modern equivalent of a stronghold or a keep  
may be what is called a **safe room**,  
more commonly known as a **panic room**—  
it's a fortified **room, often made of steel**,  
that is installed inside a private home or business  
to provide a **safe** shelter, or a hiding place,  
in the event of a break-in, a home invasion, tornado, terror attack, or other threat.  
If you'd like one of these in your home you can go to **USSaferoom.com**  
and they can show you how to "be prepared for anything."

It's quite a website,  
with its descriptions of all the things that could cause us to lie awake at night,  
or else have nightmares about when we do sleep—  
hurricanes, tornadoes, mass shooters, terrorist bombings,  
biological weapons, nuclear war.  
"With a safety structure from **U.S. Safe Room**," it says,  
"you can protect your family from disaster."  
'We never know what tomorrow holds,  
so don't wait on a disaster or life-threatening event.  
[Contact us today](#) to protect your loved ones . . . ."

There you go.

Is that what you need—a panic room in your house?  
Will that be your "**stronghold**"—  
your final line of defense again impending danger?

I don't think so.

Not that we shouldn't take reasonable precautions—  
and David himself sought refuge in the cave of Adullam  
when he was on the run from King Saul (1 Sam. 22:1).

But he knew that he needed a stronghold that was more secure than a cave.  
His confidence came from the Lord—  
"**The Lord is the stronghold of my life**," he says.  
I'll take that over a "safe room" any day.

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Let me ask you,  
What is the stronghold of your life?  
What do you look to for protection?  
What is ultimately going to keep you safe?  
Is it your doctor?  
Is it the Fairfax County police?  
The US center for Disease Control?  
Is it the US military?

Is it your own wits and wisdom?  
Don't be foolish—  
The threats we face are too varied, they are too great—  
and in the end, we will all face the inevitability of death.  
What will your stronghold be then?

David's confidence not in any of those things—  
it is in the Lord—  
**"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?"**

The Lord God—  
David knows this God as his God—  
the God who is for him and who will be with him,  
whatever may come.  
That's where his confidence lies.

It is on this basis that David can say,  
"Everything is going to be OK.  
There is nothing to be afraid of."

Don't you want to have that kind of confidence?

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Confidence—a godly confidence.  
A confidence grounded in the goodness of our great God.  
That's what we see here.

But there's more to this psalm that we need to understand  
lest we misunderstand what this godly confidence is all about.

**Two things I want you to notice--**

**First, having confidence in the love and care of the Lord in your life  
does not mean that you won't have troubles and trials in this world.**

Just look at the kind of world the psalmist lived in--

v. 2 --"When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,  
when my enemies and my foes attack me,  
they will stumble and fall.

3     **Though an army besiege me,  
          my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
          even then will I be confident."**

Evil men, enemies, an opposing army, war--  
later he speaks of the coming of the day of evil,  
he refers to the enemies who surround him,

he mentions his oppressors, his foes,  
and the false witnesses  
who rise up against him, breathing out violence.

This is not life sitting on the beach,  
sipping a cold drink,  
reading a mystery novel all day!

This is a dark and dangerous world,  
a world full of violence and evil,  
and David is surrounded by it.  
And it is in the midst of that world, that threatening world,  
that he expresses his confidence--

**"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?"**

It's not that there aren't things to be afraid of;  
it's just that things look very different  
if you know that God is on your side.

It would be like a bunch of us middle-aged and above balding guys  
playing a church basketball game.

We get together in the gym and pick sides.  
But imagine if there was one ringer who joined in--  
and that player was Labron James.  
Think about it--whichever side that got first pick would have already won.  
if you got Labron James on your team  
then it wouldn't matter who of us was on the other team.  
The outcome of the game is already decided--it's no contest!

The Psalmist looks at all those who oppose him--  
and they may look pretty formidable--  
but then he looks at the One who is on his side!

In this dark world, **"The LORD is my light."**  
He will show me the way.  
In this world filled with forces who would seek destroy me,  
**"The Lord is my salvation-- whom shall I fear?  
he is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid?"**

It's the same thing Paul says in Rom. 8:31--  
**"If God is for us, who can be against us?"**

Who indeed!

Jesus says the key to confidence is not the absence of fear  
but the proper object of fear.  
Luke 12:4-7--"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body  
and after that can do no more.

**5 But I will show you whom you should fear:  
Fear him who, after the killing of the body,**

has power to throw you into hell.

Yes, I tell you, fear him.

6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?

Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.

7 Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Don't be afraid, because the Lord God is your Father in heaven  
and he is on your side--  
if you fear him, you don't need to fear anything else!

So, first, having confidence in the love and care of the Lord in your life  
does not mean that you won't have trouble and trials in this world.  
It just means that your God is greater than any troubles or trials  
you might have in this world.

Again Jesus says,

**"In this world you will have trouble.**

**But take heart! I have overcome the world"** (Jn. 16:33).

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The second thing I want you to notice from this psalm is that  
**having confidence in the love and care of the Lord in your life  
does not mean that  
all your desires in this world will be satisfied.**

Don't take what is said by the psalmist here  
to mean that, because the Lord is your light,  
you can be sure that you won't lose your job,

Don't take what is said by the psalmist here  
to mean that, because the Lord is your salvation,  
you can be sure that you won't be diagnosed with cancer.

Don't take what is said by the psalmist here  
to mean that, because the Lord is the stronghold of your life,  
you can be sure that  
you will never get mugged on the street.

Any of those could happen--  
but we can still be confident about the future.  
How is that?

The psalmist is confident because he knows that nothing, nothing at all,  
can thwart his supreme desire;  
nothing can prevent that one desire from being fulfilled.

And what is that?

v. 4--"One thing I ask of the LORD,

this is what I seek:

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 seek him in his temple."



Paul says the same thing—

**“whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.  
What is more, I consider everything a loss  
compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,”** (Phil. 3:7).

I think of the promise of God in Rom. 8:28--

when Paul says that **"God works everything for good"**--

He isn't referring to just any good that we might happen to desire.

He isn't saying that God will make everything work out  
to accomplish my agenda, my goals.

No, he says, **"God works everything for the good of those who love him  
and are called according to his purpose."**

The good which God promises us is his good purpose for our lives—  
which is know him—

It is to know his love,  
to know his goodness, his truth, and his beauty,

So Paul asks,

Rom. 8:35 **"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**

**Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness  
or danger or sword? . . .**

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors  
through him who loved us.**

**For I am convinced that . . . nothing in all creation  
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Opposition will come, but we need not be afraid--

for, since God is for us--no opposition can possibly overcome us.

There is no way!

Nothing can separate us from the one thing we should value above all else—

God's love, God's presence,

nothing can prevent the certain victory of God's good purpose in our lives.

If God is for us,

of whom shall we be afraid?

It was this confidence that enabled Joshua and Caleb,

after seeing the mighty men who occupied the land of Canaan,

to say, in spite of that, that the Israelites should go forward in battle

to take that land--

if God was with him--

who could be against him?

It was this confidence that enabled young David, with slingshot in hand,

to stand against that giant Goliath--

if God was with him--

who could be against him?

It was this confidence that enabled the apostle Peter

to stand against the religious establishment in Jerusalem,

and for later Christian martyrs to stand against the imperial power of Rome--

if God was with them--  
who could be against them?

And it is this confidence that allows Christians today  
to stand firm in their faith, even to the point of death,  
in those places in the world where believers are persecuted.  
If God was with them--  
who could be against them?

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So look again at all that opposes you--  
look hard--  
Do you think it is any greater than what opposed Moses  
as he thought of going back to Egypt to stand up to Pharaoh?  
And what did the Lord say to Moses?  
**"I will be with you"** (Exod. 3:12).

And what did Hezekiah tell the people as they quaked in their sandals  
when they saw the power of the mighty Assyrians--  
**"Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria  
and the vast army with him,  
for there is a greater power with us than with him.  
With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God  
to help us and to fight our battles"** (2 Chron 32:7,8).

And what did Jesus say to his disciples  
when he sent them to make disciples of all nations?  
**"I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** (Mt. 28:20)

This is where our confidence comes--  
**"Though an army besiege me,  
my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
even then will I be confident."**

Our confidence comes in knowing the goodness of our God,  
and desiring with all our heart to dwell in his presence  
and to find our joy in him above all else.  
We can be confident that the Lord will let nothing, nothing at all,  
get in the way of that ultimate goal.  
We will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.

As Paul puts it, **"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."**

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This is how we're set free from fear--  
when we share the faith and the desire that David had here--  
that singled minded desire

to "dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple."

But we still live in a dark and dangerous world.

God's victory over the forces of evil

is not yet clearly evident.

The forces of evil seem to have great power,

and they threaten to assert their rule everywhere you look.

That's why, in this present age, we must not only echo David's proclamation in vv. 1-6,  
but also his prayer in vv. 7-12.

v. 7-- "Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;  
be merciful to me and answer me."

These verses seem to have a very different feel than what has come before.

So much so, that some scholars think these must have originally been two psalms.

How could the writer of vv. 1-6 speak with such confidence

of God's protection,

and then in vv. 7-12 seem to be desperately crying out to God

to save him.

He almost seems to be quaking in fear!

Just listen to him—

v. 9—O Lord, "Do not hide your face from me,

do not turn your servant away in anger;

you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior."

v. 12—"Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,  
for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence." /

But is this sudden shift from confident proclamation

to desperate prayer so surprising?

Isn't this the way we often act when we are in danger and feel threatened?

We may know the truth that God is with us,

but that truth not always evident,

we don't always see it.

In this world, we must live by faith--

we must trust that God is at work,

even when it seems that he isn't.

We must believe that God's purposes will prevail

when, from our perspective, nothing is going right.

And it is in our prayer

that that discrepancy between what we believe and what we see

is voiced.

In our prayer,

we express our desire for God to do  
 what he has promised he will do.  
 And in prayer we put our confident convictions to work  
 in the midst of fearful circumstances.

So David prays in v. 9—O Lord, "**Do not hide your face from me,  
 do not turn your servant away in anger;  
 you have been my helper.  
 Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.**"

That's the prayer,  
 and in the following verse is the conviction that under girds it--  
**"Though my father and mother forsake me,  
 the LORD will receive me."**

It is in our prayer that we wrestle with the realities of the hostile world around us  
 in the faith that the Lord our God is an even greater reality. /

This is the challenge of faith—  
 to work out our settled convictions when the harsh realities of the world  
 seem to call them into question.  
 And that can be hard.

But two things are critical in this process—

First, we must continue to seek God—  
 v. 8—**My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
 Your face, LORD, I will seek."**

Our convictions tell us that God will not forsake us;  
 our experience feels as if he has.  
 Faith means holding to your convictions despite your experience,  
 and continuing to seek God in the midst of your trials.

v. 8—**My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
 Your face, LORD, I will seek."**

And then in v. 11 David shows us another critical component of this process—  
 v. 11--**"Teach me your way, O LORD;  
 lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.**

Again, the Lord is not our servant—  
 a genie that we call out of the bottle when we get in a jam.

He is the Lord;  
 he is our rightful King.  
 He is righteous in all his ways,  
 and we cannot seek him  
 if we are not also willing to submit to him.

If we are to seek his face,  
 we must also seek his ways.

We must come under his authority,  
with faith that his ways are always good and right.

How often we cry out to God to rescue us from the consequences of our sin  
without a willingness to turn from that sin.

That's not how it works.  
Faith—real faith, as we saw last week—  
faith includes repentance—  
a turning from doing life my way  
with a desire to doing life God's way.  
There is no other way to draw near to God.

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Be sure of it,  
your convictions will be put to the test.  
And in a sense, they are not real convictions  
until they are tested.

And when they are, do what David does—  
he cries out to God in prayer.  
He seeks God's face  
and he seeks God's way.

“Lord, I am afraid—  
I know I shouldn't be—  
I shouldn't be afraid because I believe that you are with me;  
and I know that your purposes for my life are good.  
I can say with David that you are my light and my salvation,  
you are the stronghold of my life—  
Help me to bring those confident convictions into these fearful circumstances.”

That's how we must pray.

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And it is as if the final two verses give a resolution to the psalmist's inner conflict.  
v. 13 is a reaffirmation of his faith—

**"I am still confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."**

David may have thought of the "**land of living**" only in terms of this world.  
But for us, living after the resurrection of Jesus,  
the "**land of the living**" is that place lived in the presence of God,  
alongside the living Lord of life, Jesus Christ.

That is where we will be most fully alive.  
And it is not limited to life in this world.

This must be our bottom-line conviction—  
**"I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."**  
I am confident of this—  
Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ—Nothing!

Do you believe that? . . .

Our confidence comes only when we can say with Paul,

**"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain"--**

for in dying I can enter into the presence of God  
in a new and deeper way.

This is how we're set free from fear.

It's not that we won't have fears--  
everybody has fears.

If you never have fear you are not brave;  
you are just foolish.

The question is, Do you care something that is greater than your fear,  
something that can sustain you despite your fear?

I've never been in combat, but all that I've heard and read tells me  
that every soldier in combat is afraid.

But something enables them to overcome their fear and keep going--

maybe it's their love for the buddy next to them;

maybe it's their love of country;

maybe it's the fear of the shame of being a coward.

But something is greater than their fear of danger.

I remember flying back into D.C. one night--

on the way, we encountered what the pilot called "minor turbulence."

That's what they always call it—

It may have been minor to him,

but it's never minor to me.

I hate "minor turbulence"--I'm sure the wings are going to fall off,

and we're going to crash.

I thought that that night.

Now how was I to deal with that fear?

I considered what was the worst thing that could happen--

I could die.

But is that so bad? I would see my Lord.

**"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain"--**

But I had my son next to me.

If I died, he'd be without a father.

But, I thought, he would still have his Father in heaven,

who would continue to love him more than I ever could.

No, I had no reason to be afraid.

David can say, "**I am still confident of this:**

**I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."**

Can you?

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But in this world,

holding on to that confidence will not go unchallenged, I assure you.

So David concludes with a final call to courageous hope--

v. 14—"Wait for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."

Waiting can be hard—  
waiting for the Lord to show his hand,  
waiting for the Lord to shine his light into our darkness,  
to save us from our enemies,  
to provide a refuge in a time of conflict and even violence.

He operates on a different time table,  
and often we must wait.

And to wait will require strength and persistence—  
"be strong and take heart," David says.  
"take heart,"--that could be translated "harden your heart."<sup>1</sup>  
Don't give up and don't give in.  
Hold on with tenacity, even stubbornness, to what you know to be true.

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And we now know it to be true  
because God has shown his hand  
and revealed his heart conclusively.  
He did it two thousand years ago.

On that Good Friday, it appeared that all was lost—  
evil had triumphed once and for all.  
Jesus of Nazareth had been killed;  
On that cross, his light had been extinguished;  
no one came to his rescue;  
God himself seemed to have abandoned his own Son.  
Jesus was laid in the darkness of a tomb.

But then the tables were turned—  
on that first Easter morning the light of God broke through  
and his disciples awoke from that horrible nightmare.  
The forces of evil were overcome  
as Jesus was raised from the dead  
never to die again,  
bringing forgiveness and new life to all who put their trust in him.

There it is, in the gospel—  
the proof of God's love for us--  
"God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rm. 5:8).

"He who did spare his own Son but gave him up for us all,

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<sup>1</sup> For the use of this expression in a negative sense, cf. Dt 2:30; Dt 15:7; 2Chron 36:13.

**how will he not also along with him  
graciously give us all things"--  
all thing that are for our ultimate good?**

I don't know where you are in your life right now—  
maybe you feel overwhelmed by life's challenges,  
or deeply threatened by life's dangers.  
Face it, we live in a society that often seems characterized by **fear**.  
But just remember—  
it may be Friday, but Sunday's coming.

If you are united to Christ by faith—  
If the Lord is your light and your salvation—  
whom shall you fear?  
If the LORD is the stronghold of your life—  
of whom shall you be afraid?

You can be confident of this:  
**you will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**  
**Wait for the LORD;**  
**be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.**  
Everything is going to be OK.  
You need not be afraid.

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Prayer--set before the Lord those things that cause you to be afraid.

Consider them in the light of the majesty and glory and goodness

Hebr. 4:16 **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

Phil. 4:6 **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**  
**7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

**Wait for the LORD; —**  
Spurgeon—"Wait at his door with prayer;  
wait at his foot with humility;  
wait at his table with service;  
wait at his window with expectancy."

**Closing Song:** #61 *Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty* [all 3 vv.]

**Benediction**

Rom. 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,  
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sept. 16, 2018

**Glimpses of Godliness in the Psalms:  
"Confidence"  
Psalm 27**

How can anyone live with confidence in a fearful world? In our psalm, David points the way in his confident proclamation and his heart-felt prayer for help in the midst of trials. Confidence in this world takes both courage and patience.

**I. A Proclamation of Fearless Confidence (vv. 1-6)**

**A. Confidence in the Face of Dangers (vv. 2-3)**

**B. Grounded in a Single-Minded Desire (v. 4)**

**II. A Prayer for Help in Fearful Circumstances (vv. 7-12)**

**A. Seeking God's Face (v. 8)**

**B. Seeking God's Way (v. 11)**

**III. A Challenging Resolution (vv. 13-14):**

**Confident and Courageous Waiting**

Discussion Questions:

**Glimpses of Godliness in the Psalms:  
"Confidence"  
Psalm 27**

- What are the things that keep you up at night? what are your “nightmares”? What do you fear?
- What is your “stronghold”? What do you look to for security and peace when you have fear?
- What would it mean for you to say, "**The LORD is my light and my salvation, . . . The LORD is the stronghold of my life**"? How do you understand the Lord's protection in your life? How can you grow in this conviction?
- When you feel fearful, what can you do to bring those fears under the umbrella of the Lord's protection in your life?
- Read Luke 12:4-7. How does the fear of God enable us to be unafraid?
- Reflect on Ps. 27:4--"**One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: 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 seek him in his temple.**"  
What does this mean? Is this what you want? Why? or Why not? Why is this desire critical if you want to live without fear?
- "It is in our **prayer** that the discrepancy between what we believe and what we see and experienced is voiced." What do you make of this idea? Is this how you pray?