

# MORE than an EMOJI

## Part 4 – From Fear to Confidence Psalm 27

Pastor Mark Hartman  
March 19, 2017

*Psalm 27:1-3 “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? <sup>2</sup> When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. <sup>3</sup> Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.”*

1. THE CHALLENGE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FACE OF FEAR. (Psalm 27:3, 10)
  - A. *Psalm 27:3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be **confident**.*
  - B. The word “confident” means the state of possessing an **assurance** of success.
  - C. *Psalm 27:10 Though my mother and father forsake me, the Lord will receive me.*
  - D. *Even if I face the two greatest dangers life can dish out, I still know I am ultimately safe. I’ve got something inside me that **can’t** be stripped away even in the face of the worst life has to offer. (King David)*
2. THE KEY TO HAVING CONFIDENCE INSTEAD OF FEAR IS TAKING THE GOD FACTOR **SERIOUSLY**. (Psalm 27:1-3)
  - A. The beginning of taking God seriously is to discover **Who** He is.

*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?*

1. God is **light**.
  - a. *1 John 1:5 God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.*
  - b. *Psalm 104:1-2 ...O Lord my God, how great you are! You are robed with honor and with majesty; <sup>2</sup> you are dressed in a robe of light...*
  - c. *Psalm 36:9 For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see.*

2. God is **salvation**.

*Isaiah 54:17 ...No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord.*

3. God is **strength**.

- B. Taking God seriously requires making what is true about God become YOUR **possession**. (Psalm 27:2)

1. *Psalm 27:2 When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.*
2. God doesn't just want to be light, He wants to be **your** light. He wants to be **your** rescue; He wants to be **your** strength.
3. Why not **choose** to trust in what is true about God right now in this moment in your life?

- C. Taking God seriously involves us verbally **confessing** the truth about God.

1. Praise is an act of quoting back to God aspects of His **character**.
2. Verbal praise performs at least two crucial functions:
  - a. Praise is the act of **blessing** God. It is a response of love toward Him.
  - b. Praise builds our **faith**.
    1. Praise causes us to begin believing in our **heart** what we know is true in our mind.
    2. Praise opens your **spiritual** eyes to see what your physical eyes cannot see.

- D. Taking God seriously requires building a deepening relationship with Him. (Psalm 27:4)
1. *Psalm 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.*
  2. To the Jewish mind, to be in the house of the Lord meant to be in the known presence of God.
  3. The act of running to the known presence of God is the act of dwelling in the arms of safety.
  4. *Psalm 27:5 For in the day of trouble He WILL keep me safe in His dwelling; He WILL hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.*

This week...

1. I will go to the Next Step Center immediately following this service and talk with a minister about how I can receive God by faith through His Son, Jesus Christ.
2. I choose to take God seriously in my life as my light, my salvation and my strength.
3. I will verbally confess to God the truth about Him through praise and allow praise to build my faith.
4. I will follow the example of King David (author of Psalm 27) and nurture my relationship with God through prayer and a daily quiet time with Him.

*CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.*

**Notes:**

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