

Introduction: In Luke 10:1-11, our Lord Jesus sends out 70 of His chosen servants to *preach* the Gospel of the Kingdom; to *confront* Satan's host and to *bring the peace of God* into the homes they would visit as they went before their Master to prepare His way – much like John the Baptist had been sent ahead of Christ. Their mission is profoundly successful, and they return to Jesus rejoicing that even the demons are subject to them by the power of Christ (Luke 10:17).

But Jesus lifts the Seventy's faith to focus on the higher blessings of peace with God and their names being written forever in the book of life (Luke 10:20)! In short, Jesus wants the Seventy to realize that their ultimate destiny is to *see God* and to *enjoy heavenly communion with Him* – *face to face!* Many, such as David, who wrote this week's Psalm 27, longed to see the coming of the day of Jesus and didn't (Luke 10:24). Jesus wants the Seventy to realize the blessing of real communion with God through Christ *now* and real hope for heavenly fellowship *then!*

Monday: read Psalm 27:1-5. When it comes to rejoicing in the message of “peace with God through the coming of His Kingdom”, (the message the Seventy were given in Luke 10:1-9), David teaches us about the same reality as he speaks of the Light of God's Face and Favor in Psalm 27. As we study this Psalm today, we will discover that God not only speaks directly to us through His Word, but that He does so in order for us to enter into the most intense heart communion with Him. As Psalm 27:8 says (NKJV): ‘My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”’ David hears God speaking to his heart and responds by seeking deep fellowship with Him. May *we* also find our hearts reinvigorated as God seeks our hearts in this Psalm!

Tuesday: read Psalm 27:1-5. It is a rule of thumb that those who covet reputation and standing in this self-righteous world have the most to lose when their sins catch up with them (1 Timothy 5:24). How much better to have the simple focus of Psalm 27:4, where David divests himself of all insecure wealth and fame, and instead reduces his life down to one safe request: *One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life...* . Do you see the security of such a desire? Yes, David has violent foes throughout Psalm 27: he is in danger from war, (verse 3); his most intimate family relationships could fail, (verse 10); his very reputation is under attack from slander, (verse 12). But he knows that his one priceless spiritual possession, namely, a standing with God based on God's grace, can never be taken away. For in the time of trouble, David is assured, (verse 5), that the LORD *will* “Hide him in His pavilion and in the secret place of His tabernacle.” What safety: he (and us), are hidden in the Rock of God's righteousness in Christ!

Meditate and Pray: Sing about God's overshadowing protection of our spiritual treasures with the words of hymn # 84 in our Red Trinity Hymnal:

Under the care of my God, the Almighty,
Safe in the secret place of the Most High!
He is my Refuge, the Lord is my Fortress,
Him I am trusting when trouble is nigh.

Refrain: *Under his wings, under his wings,
Safe in the refuge hide thee;
Trusting his truth and faithfulness,
No evil can betide thee.*

Be not afraid for the terror of midnight,
Nor for the arrow that hasteth to slay;
Fear not the pestilence walking in darkness,
Nor the destroyer that wasteth by day. **(Refrain)**

Seek the Most High for thy sure habitation,
Unto Jehovah for refuge now fly;
There shall no evil befall thee nor harm thee,
Unto thy dwelling no plague shall come nigh.
(Refrain)

Love thou the Lord, surely he will deliver;
He will exalt thee and answer thy prayer;
He will be with thee to honor and give thee
Life without end, his salvation to share. **(Refrain)**

Wednesday: read Psalm 27:6-9 and 2 Corinthians 4:6. The chief blessing of the Christian life is the outshining of the favor of God, often described as “God's face shining upon us.” David covets this “light” - calling it his salvation in Ps. 27:1; seeking it in the face of God in Ps. 27:8, and pleading that God would never withdraw the favor of His face in Ps. 27:9. In 2 Cor. 4:6, Paul sees the ultimate revelation of this light from God as shining in the “face” of Jesus Christ in the Gospel. And where does that light penetrate to in our lives? “Well”, Paul says, “God has shone that light in our hearts.” What a sanctuary of light and love our hearts become through the Gospel!

Meditate and Pray: “Lord, in our day when many professing believers suffer under either a cold, and formal religion of the head or a superficial, transitory and giddy religion of the emotions, thank you that you address our whole persons and all of our innermost needs through the heart, i.e., the whole inner man. Thank you that one of the highest covenant blessings of our lives is to know that you have said in Ezekiel 36:26 that you will give us “a new heart,” which issues not only in joyful obedience, but in a fountain of joy for our lives. O heart-changing God, renew our hearts' flame for you. Amen.”

Thursday: read Psalm 27:1, 7-9 and Mark 9:1-8. We reject the Quaker teaching that we all have an “inner light” from God to which we look for spiritual life. In today’s world, this false understanding of fallen mankind prompts so many in the therapeutic counseling world to urge people to look inside their natural lives to find their potential and their own personal wisdom and goodness.

Instead, we see the light of God in all its power in the Person of Jesus Christ. *He alone is wisdom and goodness!* Yes, that light is meant to shine *in* our hearts – but it does not originate there, nor can we control it, as if it were a light switch tied to our decisions or feelings. Peter made the mistake of thinking he could control the blazing white glory of God's light, when he suggested that the transfigured Jesus should withdraw His light into a tent, along with Moses and Elijah, who would also have their tabernacles of honor in Mk. 9:5. Peter's desire to “box up” the glory of God is what all human religion resorts to when it can't deal with the reality of God's fiery presence: “Put God in a tent; at a safe distance; choose a priest who knows the rituals to appease Him and keep that God at bay,” is the philosophy which Peter expresses, “not knowing (for fear) what to say,” Mk. 9:6. But for Jesus to agree to Peter's request would have been to slide back into the days when even the mere *fading reflection* of God's glory in the face of Moses caused Israel to want nothing to do with any intimate contact with God – see Exodus 34:29-33.

Meditate and Pray: Thank God for His gracious dealing with us, sending His Son “veiled in human flesh,” so that we would not perish from direct contact with the fiery light of God's holiness. We can say with David in Ps. 27:5 that God will “hide us in the secret place of His tabernacle,” because that “tabernacle” has now become the human, resurrected body of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Hallelujah!

Friday: read Psalm 27:7-9. How often our hearts accuse us, reminding us of all our failures, sins and disqualification for Divine blessing. David must have felt the same this, for at the end of Psalm 27:9, he pleads with God not to reject him. The language of the verse is quite urgent and could read: “Put not away in wrath thy servant ... forsake me not, and leave me not, oh God of my salvation!” Indeed, David not only utters these agonizing words once, but evidently must live with the fear and perplexity which they express, for he ends the Psalm, (with one eye on his enemies in verse 12, who even now “rise up against him”), pleading with his own soul to “wait for the Lord” in verse 14! Not an easy life did David have! How then can he cope?

Meditate and Pray: Thank God that, when our hearts fail us, as in Psalm 27:9, He is stronger than our hearts. After all, it was He who took the initiative to seek, find and call us, as David himself says when addressing God in Psalm 27:8, (ESV): “You have said, “Seek my face.” All our hearts need do is “echo” back to Him: “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”

Saturday/Sunday: read Psalm 27:1-4 and Philippians 3:10-14. Stepping back for a weekend overview of Psalm 27, we must not miss the simplicity of David’s life of faith. As we said in Monday’s notes on Psalm 27:4, “David divests himself of all insecure wealth and instead reduces his life down to one safe request: *One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life...* .” Nor is David alone in such a single-minded longing. In Philippians 3:12-14, Paul uses the picture of runners, who keep their eyes welded to the racecourse, refusing to glance backwards to see who is behind them, or sideways to the cheering crowds, lest by such distractions time is lost. Instead, Paul simply presses forward, “forgetting what lies behind.” It is enough for Paul and David simply to see the future goal of knowing Christ in suffering, trials and future glory.

“Lord, in a world which clamors for our attention, insisting that many fears and concerns should preoccupy our thinking, help us this summer to draw aside to enjoy the one great thing of the Christian life as revealed in Philippians 3:10-11, (namely), knowing the power of your Son’s resurrection and sufferings and certain of the hope that we too will attain to the resurrection from the dead. Help us to do that **one** thing, *forgetting what is behind, and straining on toward what is ahead*, using the words of John Henry Newman’s famous hymn, “Lead Kindly Light”, especially verse one:

*Lead, kindly Light, amid th’encircling gloom, lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home; lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; **one step enough for me.***

*I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will. Remember not past years!*

*So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still will lead me on.
O’er moor and fen, o’er crag and torrent, till the night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile, which I
Have loved long since, and lost awhile!*

*Meantime, along the narrow rugged path, Thyself hast trod,
Lead, Savior, lead me home in childlike faith, home to my God.
To rest forever after earthly strife
In the calm light of everlasting life.*