

“Confident”

Psalm 27: 1-14

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The Latin root word “fid” actually means “trust.” This Latin root is the word origin of a number of English words, including confident, fidelity, and perfidy. The Latin root word “fid” is easily identified through the popular dog name “Fido,” whom the dog’s master can “trust” to be unwaveringly loyal. The confident faith in God the Psalmist testifies to in Psalm 27 is based on the love of God. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians in I Corinthians 13 concludes with these words: ¹³“*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*” The love of God is the root of our confident faith (trust) and hope in God.

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; At the start of each new day one can express their faith in this verse by saying or singing: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. Your mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning - great is your faithfulness, O Lord. Great is your faithfulness."

whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

of whom shall I be afraid? Ask yourself this question every day!

**² When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—**

they shall stumble and fall. These evildoers could be in the form of illness, others, yourself - your own thoughts, etc.

**³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,**

yet I will be confident. The Corona virus among other things could be like an army waging war in your life. In spite of this, one can be confident. This confidence does not mean the Psalmist is out of touch with reality. Rather, in the midst of that reality, the Psalmist (David) is not swayed by fear but has a calm spirit resting in God.

**⁴ One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:**

**to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,**

and to inquire in his temple. It is important for everyone to regularly be in God's house to worship God with the people of God. Regular worship builds a heart after God which sees the beauty of God more radiantly. *"Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth 'thrown in': aim at Earth and you will get neither."* C.S. Lewis

In January 1987, Terry Waite travelled to Beirut, Lebanon on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury to work at trying to release Western hostages they had been told were ill. However, Waite was then also kidnapped by Hezbollah, who accused him of being a CIA agent. They thought Waite had knowledge of deals between Iran and USA. For almost five years he was in solitary confinement for 23 1/2 hours per day and often chained to a wall.

Suffering can destroy a person if one chooses to let that happen.

The scripture, the Psalms, and the music which Waite could recall from worship sustained him at those times. He was able to develop his inner faith and through this isolation and solitary confinement, his heart expanded for God and his feelings of sympathy for others who were suffering changed to feelings of empathy.

**⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;**

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;

he will set me high on a rock. Trouble will happen and you will suffer - but you are raised up so you can have an expanded perspective to deal with the trouble. While our circumstances may stay the same, God can put our feet on solid ground so that even while we see danger around us, our outlook is grounded and firm in God's steadfast love.

**⁶ Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,**

and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Joyful confidence is experienced in the midst of enemies and in the suffering inflicted by enemies. The love of God instilled in one's heart prepares one for the pain. Our inclination is to avoid all suffering. *"The core message of Jesus is that real joy and peace can never be reached while bypassing suffering and death,*

but only by going right through them. These things are not beautiful or desired, but the path to joy and peace." - Henri Nouwen

**7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!**

**8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

9 Do not hide your face from me. You have prepared your heart with worship and prayer and it is deep in your heart to seek God. You have built this habit - It comes from your heart. Though you are afraid and even experiencing doubt, you reach out to God.

**Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.**

**Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!**

**10 If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.** No one knows you like God. We will always have God who is faithful. Others will fail us even our closest friends, spouses, loved ones will fail us – and they will certainly die. However, when we lose our friends and loved ones we still have God. If we did not have God, the others in our life would not be enough. ³⁸ *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,* ³⁹ *nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 8: 38)

**11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.**

**12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.**

**13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

**14 Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!** In an interview and reflecting on his time in captivity, Terry Waite told the host that his faith gave him the strength to persevere in captivity. Waite said his captors could try to break his body and try to bend his

mind and they tried. They also tried to bend his soul but it wasn't theirs to possess. (*Matthew 10: 28a*) In other words even if Waite was killed, he knew he would not be destroyed. His soul belongs to the hand of God and cannot be taken by anyone else. Because of that simple affirmation, he could maintain hope.

There are uncertain times and that is unsettling. But it is important to keep in mind that this certainly makes us feel comfortable, but it does move us forward. We want to make life predictable because when it changes we get stressed and uncomfortable. Hope is acknowledging that we cannot figure everything out and that pain, suffering and death will come our way. But with Christ as our example, we know that we can go through it, have it around us and at the same time experience true lasting peace and joy. We do not like suffering or enjoy it, but we can handle it and be formed in our faith through it because our God through Christ has won the victory over suffering and death. That Good news of hope will not change! Hope is stronger than certainty because Hope gives us confidence in spite of the uncertainty around us. Not false hope based on worldly success and greed, but confident hope rooted in God who loves us and the one we can trust because he gave everything - his life.

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?