



The Lord is My Light and My Salvation

(Meditations on Psalm 27 for the year 2021 – The Lord gave me this word in the place of prayer as we crossed over into the year 2021).

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1).

As we step into this new year it is important that we do so without fear. There is the tendency to be gripped with fear not knowing what the year holds for us especially because of the magnitude of challenges that the past year presented to all of us. We must recognize going forward that the LORD is our light and our salvation, he is our direction, he is our compass. He is the author and finisher of our faith, we take our bearing from him. He is our light. We must resolve to take our bearing from him and from him alone in this new year.

The systems of men will continue to fail, the arm of the flesh has failed and will continue to fail but only in the Lord shall we trust because he is our light and our salvation. Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made the heavens and the earth (Psalm 124:8), our help is not in man or the systems of men.

We see before our very eyes how the nations of the world have been brought virtually to its knees by a strange and hitherto unknown virus. The strongest of men and nations have been affected by this virus. We must look to the Lord in the year 2021. "Our soul waiteth for the LORD: **he is our help and our shield.** For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in the thee" (Psalm 33:20-22). Our soul shall wait on the LORD for he is our strength and shield in the days and months ahead of us.

The Psalmist said in Psalm 121, and this should be our prayer and our attitude this new year – "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. (In this new year) He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: for He that keepeth thee do not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep, the LORD is thy

keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from **all evil**: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore” (Psalm 121: 1-8). This is our security and our safety as we step into this new year. We must take our eyes away from our own abilities and strength, we must take our eyes away from the ability of the government and the systems of men to keep and protect us, our eyes must be on the Lord. No power on earth can protect us and keep us save. We must lift up our eyes unto the hills, the Lord who made the heavens and the earth where our help comes from.

When the wicked, even mine enemies, and my foes, came upon me to eat my flesh, they stumbled and fell (Psalm 27:2).

There will be challenges in the new year and even beyond. The present rage will continue to some extent. The wicked and even our enemies and our foes will attempt to come against us to eat our flesh and to destroy us, but they shall **stumble and fall**.

Our enemies and our foes shall shall falter, and they shall stumble in their plans and effort to reach us and they shall eventually fall. They will fall and break into pieces. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgement thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD (Isaiah 54:17).

The heathen may rage, and the people may imagine vain things. The kings of the earth, and the rulers of the nation may set themselves and take counsel against the course of the Lord and his people, but the most high that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh and he the LORD shall have them in derision. He shall speak to them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure (Psalm 2:1-5).

The Lord shall stand for us; he will defend us. The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion... now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They are brought down and fallen (our enemies and foes): but we are arisen, and stand upright. Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call” (Psalm 20:1-2, 2-9). The LORD himself will cause all our enemies to stumble and fall, the LORD will bring them down and cause them to fall in this new year and beyond. This is His promise to us and we must hold on to this promise as we look forward to the days ahead of us.



Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear, though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.... For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. (Psalm 27:3,5)

Even though a host encamp against me, and I am surrounded on every side by pressures and attacks from the enemy, even though I see the attacks of the enemy all around my heart will not fear. Even though war should rise against me I shall not be afraid, but I am confident that the LORD in the time of trouble will hide me in his pavilion: in the secret place of his tabernacle shall he hide me.

This is the LORD’s promise for you and me as we step into this new year. He will take it upon himself to hide us in his pavilion in the day when the enemy comes at us and the pressure appear to be much

and overwhelming all around us, He said I will shield you, I will protect you, I will hide you in the secret place of my tabernacle, and he shall set our feet upon the rock. He will do this for us. He will guide and guard us in the midst of darkness and trouble. He strengthens our feet that are weary and wobbly because of the pressures of life. He lifts our feet in the midst of the trouble and sets our feet on the rock to stay. He shall set me upon a rock. No storm or wind will succeed in removing me from this rock. His mighty hand has set me on this rock. We shall survive 2021 and beyond because he has set us on the rock. It is an unmovable and an unshakable rock. That is our faith for this new year.

The LORD has promised that he will bring you out of the miry clay (the confusion and perplexity all around), and he will set your feet upon the rock, and establish your goings (Psalm 40:2). This is a very reassuring promise from the LORD as we seek to navigate the difficult and uncharted course of this midnight hour that we all find ourselves. Though we may walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me (**Psalm 23:4**). The Lord will not abandon us; he will hide us in the secret place of his tabernacle, he will ensure that we are preserved. That is his promise to us in this new year.

And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me; therefore, will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD (Psalm 27:6**)**

The LORD shall lift mine head above the enemies round about me: therefore, **will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy**; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord. As we move forward in the days and months ahead we need to offer unto the Lord sacrifices of praise, and sacrifices of joy. We need to bring sacrifices of praise into the house of the LORD. A sacrifice of praise is a praise we offer to God even when we don't feel like it. It is praising the LORD even when we don't seem to see or have the answers to our prayers at hand.

And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, **and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the Lord (**Jeremiah 17:26**)**.

We need to bring sacrifices of praise into the house of the Lord this new year. It is a key element in our victory this year. Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, **which stand by night in the house of the LORD**. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD, the LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion (**Psalm 134:1-3**). **And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God**: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's band were loosed" (Acts 16:25). Paul and Silas were in pain; they were in shackles at midnight, yet they sang praises to God. It was not convenient for them but they sang praises to God anyway, and the Lord God Almighty arose on their behalf and gave them victory over all their enemies. This shall be our portion this new year in Jesus Name.

Sacrifices of joy is counting it all joy when we fall into divers trials and temptations (**James 1:2**). Sacrifices of joy is when we recognize that in every situation we find ourselves (whether good or bad) we should give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us (**I Thessalonians 5:18**). "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: **Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation**" (**Habakkuk 3:17-18**). Going forward into the year, we must be prepared to offer unto the Lord sacrifices of joy, we must learn to bring sacrifices of praise into the house of the Lord. This is a key that will that we unlock the future for us and give us victory in all our battles.

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell 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 (Psalm 27:4)

David said one thing have I desired of the LORD, and that will I seek after. There are two things here – One thing **have I desired**, and that **will I seek after**. We will seek after the things that we desire the most, the things that we are passionate about are the things that we are most likely going to seek after. There was a very high degree of focus here with David, he said one thing, only one thing do I desire, and that will I seek after. His gaze and focus was directed towards the LORD only. Every distraction was put aside. “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

The first thing we need to do going forward in the new year is that we must shorn every distraction, we must lay aside every distraction and focus on the LORD alone. He must be our only desire. The zeal of the house of the Lord must consume us. We must run this race with patience looking only unto the Lord the author and finisher of our faith who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and today is sitting at the right hand of the father.

More than anything else the Lord must be our one and only desire. This Lord must be our treasure. “Sell that ye have, and give alms (get rid of all the distractions in your life); provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth (focus on the Lord for this is the only thing that is important and permanent). **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also** (where your passion is, where your desire is that is where your heart will gravitate towards always)” (Luke 12: 33-34).

It is only the man whose heart is stayed (fixed) on the LORD that the LORD will keep in perfect peace because he trusteth in the LORD. Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength (Isaiah 26:3-4). “For I know the thought that I think towards you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. **And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart**” (Jeremiah 29: 11-13).

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When thou saidst, seek ye my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When thou saidst, seek ye my face: my heart said unto thee, thy face, LORD, will I seek (Psalm 27: 8-9).

In a season like this when the whole of the earth is in much pain as a result of the challenges that we face all around us, we need to be drawn to the Lord like never before in our lives, our eyes must be fixed on the Lord our God. We need to cry with our voice unto the Lord saying “Hear, o Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me”. Our heart is willing and ready to seek the face of the Lord because there is nowhere else to go, there is no one else who can save and help us at this time “when thou saidst, seek my face: my heart said unto thee, thy face, LORD, will I seek”.

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth (our help comes not from the systems of men but only from the Lord). He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber (he is there constantly to watch over us, he will ensure that our foot is not moved, he will be there for us. His watch over us is perpetual). Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The

Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore” (Psalm 121: 1-8). The Lord will preserve us by day and by night, he shall preserve our soul. He has promised that he will preserve our going out and our coming in.

Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies (Psalm 27:11).

More than anything else we need to know his ways. In the midst of all the confusion that we seem to now find ourselves. The information that we receive daily are conflicting. We are surrounded by a lot of inconsistencies all around us. There are many voices out there that we are confronted. We need to hear from God. We need him to teach us His ways, we need the Lord to lead us in a plain and simple path. We need to hear his voice daily in our thoughts just like the sheep will hear the voice of the shepherd.

The sheep does not need to struggle to hear the voice of the shepherd. The sheep just knows and recognizes the voice of the shepherd, it comes from within. It is an inner knowing, a knowing that is away from all the externalities and all the noise from all around us. It is a knowing that comes from within. We need to hear the voice of the father, we need to sit down quietly and learn of him, for his yoke is easy and his burden is light. Knowing him and hearing him speak to us is not burdensome if only we will sit at his feet and learn of him. If we are truly his sheep, we will hear his voice. My sheep hear my voice, the voice of another they will not follow “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine” (John 10:14). We need him to teach us his ways.

Moses knew the ways of God. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel (Psalm 103:7). We should not just be satisfied with the acts of God, the acts of God are visible and they are good to behold, but we should not be limited to what is visible alone, we should not be limited to what will tickle our flesh, and excite our emotions. We should look beyond what we can see, we need to know His ways, we need to know and be conversant with the plain path of his ways. They are completely different from the ways of man “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55: 7-8).

In order to defeat our enemies and overcome them completely we need to know the ways of the Lord, and be led in the plain paths of the Lord “Teach me thy way, o Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies” (Psalm 27:11). As many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14). The Lord will take away all the dark spots in our lives this new year. We shall see clearly. He will touch us a second time. The Lord will make all the crooked areas of our lives straight one again, and all the rough places and all the confusion in our lives would he make plain, and also remove all uncertainties and confusion from us: for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed to us this new year, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it (Isaiah 40: 4-5). We shall be led in the plain paths of the LORD.

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