

SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

PSALM 27

Introduction:

In the word that came in a vision to Solomon, he heard God say, "If my people which are called by name will humble themselves, pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then---." The third of the conditions for genuine renewal from God is "seek my face." We know what it means to humble ourselves, and we are familiar with prayer, but what does it mean to seek the face of God? is there any place in Scripture that might help us understand this?

As I considered this question, my heart was drawn to a Psalm of David. In this Psalm David confesses that heard God say, "Seek His face!" When David heard this word from God in his heart, he responded, "Your face, Lord, will I seek." And he did. A careful reading of this beautiful Psalm will help us understand what it means to seek the Lord.

Would you just look at the Psalm with me with this thought in mind--I want to seek the face of the Lord with a whole heart! Don't you?

The time when David felt this need to seek the Lord seems to be a time of great stress and danger. Because of the nature of David's life, this could have been almost any time. Scroggie conjectures that it may been caused by the death of his parents while they were exiled in Moab. You will remember that David slipped them out of the country while he was being pursued by Saul. He thought Saul might turn on them in an attempt to get to him, so he sent them across the border to this neighboring country. But we don't know. What we do know is that difficulties caused David to say, "I will seek Your face."

It must be significant that we seek the "face" of the Lord. While it may include the help of the Lord in several significant ways, it is above pursuing His face. Consider these things suggested to us in the Psalm.

I. TO SEEK HIS FACE IS TO MAKE KNOWING HIM YOUR FIRST PRIORITY.

Psalm 27:4 (NKJV)

⁴One *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, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.

1. The one thing
2. The one desire
3. To dwell.
4. To behold.
5. To inquire.

Like Mary who always found a place to sit at His feet where she could see His face and hear His voice. Jesus commended her choice. She was not satisfied to be in the same house with Him; she wanted to be able to see His face. You can learn so much about a person by beholding their face.

II. TO SEEK HIS FACE IS TO LOOK TO HIM ALONE FOR PROTECTION.

Psalm 27:5 (NKJV)

⁵For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

1. To be in His presence where you can see His face is always a safe place.

This will put you under His protection. Whenever you can under the tent of a person in that world, you came under the protection.

2. He is able to lift us out of all our troubles and give us a high place.

III. TO SEEK HIS FACE IS TO LOOK TO HIM ALONE FOR PROMOTION.

Psalm 27:6 (NKJV)

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

1. We must look to His face for He alone can put us where He want us.

David had a word from God that he should be seated on the throne of Israel. How will he get there? The Lord will lift his head, the Lord will remove the obstacles.

2. When the promotion comes, it will be a time of glad worship before God.

IV. TO SEEK HIS FACE IS TO HOPE IN HIM ALONE WHEN YOU NEED HELP.

Psalm 27:7-10 (NKJV)

⁷Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. ⁸*When You said*, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.” ⁹Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. ¹⁰When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.

1. God's help in the past would encourage us to His face for help.
2. When all human help has failed, it will a good time to seek His face for help.

This is what King Asa, a good king, failed to do. 2 Chronicles 15-16 records a time when he sought the help of the Lord, and a time when he sought the face of man rather than turning to the Lord. There is an inditing word about the time when Asa developed a foot problem, but he sought help only from the physicians. He did not seek healing from the Lord. (16:12)

V. TO SEEK HIS FACE IS TO ASK FOR GUIDANCE WHEN YOU ARE CONFUSED OR IN DOUBT.

Psalm 27:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹Teach me Your way, O Lord, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. ¹²Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.

1. The voice of adversaries can create confusion.
2. You turn your face to Him, and He will teach you.

VI. TO SEEK HIS FACE IS TO COURAGEOUSLY WAIT ON HIM WHEN YOU ARE DISCOURAGED.

Psalms 27:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ *I would have lost heart*, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

1. Waiting is to stand of His promises.
2. Waiting on the Lord will bring His strength.

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

³¹ But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.