

## Praying some verses from Psalm 27

*This was one of the readings encountered during the beginning of my self-isolation*

**27.1** The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold<sup>[a]</sup> of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

Comforting God, there is plenty of fear around.

Fear we could catch the virus,  
Fear of being alone,  
Fear of being hungry as we find the supermarket shelves empty,  
Fear for our families, who we can't see as often as we would like  
Fear that the NHS will not be able to cope and fear for those working within it,  
Fear that the way of life as we know it may never be the same again.

Shine through our fear as our light and our salvation,  
Be our strength and our comfort, with the courage to believe whatever the future  
holds we are held by you.

**27.3** Though a host encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

Caring God, the news reports seem to regularly report politicians declaring we are fighting a war against the Corona virus making these words of the Psalmist seem apt. 'At least', I've heard it said, 'during the war we could see who our enemy was and we knew who we were fighting!'

I know very little about warfare or tactics, but I feel reasonably sure that brute force did not always work but a carefully thought out strategy did. Is the Psalmist suggesting that whatever is happening, God can give us the inner resources, the strategy, to win the spiritual and mental 'battles' that we face, like fear, doubt or loneliness. Meaning that rather than succumbing to 'the enemy,' rather than finding the present situation overwhelming, we can find in God a confidence, trust and inner peace.

**27.3** One thing have I asked 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 ...

Communal God, as our churches have closed we experience pain and loss. We may share the cry of the Psalmist that, 'I may dwell in the house of the Lord.' Keep before us what we know is true, that the church, to which we belong, is the Body of Christ. A community which:

Is called to worship and we ask we may find meaningful ways of doing that alone and together

Is called to pray and we ask for guidance to pray not just for our own needs, but for each other, our communities, our government and for the world

Is called to serve, and we ask that even in our isolation we will find ways of supporting others, talking with them, encouraging them, and because we have the knowledge that you are our light and salvation, may that help us to reflect your light to others

**27.8** Thou hast said, "Seek ye my face."

My heart says to thee,  
"Thy face, LORD, do I seek."

<sup>9</sup> Hide not thy face from me.

Comforting, caring God, you speak to the depths of my heart saying, 'seek my face.' When we are missing human contact and the closeness of other people, inspire us to 'seek **your** face.' To find contentment in your presence, to wait quietly and patiently for you and to find in you our comfort, our joy and our strength.

**27.13** I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
yea, wait for the LORD! Amen

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