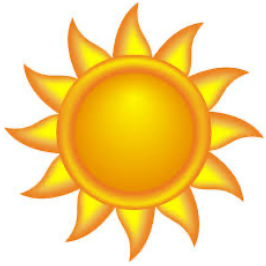
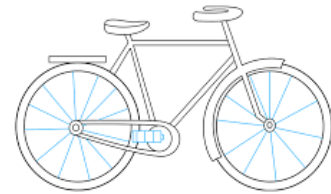


*What gives each of these things their power or “life force”?*



**You  
and  
Me**



1

## **The Stronghold of my Life**

### **Psalm 27**

**This psalm is a tool to grow our confidence in God**

**What is eroding your confidence in God today?**

**What is making you feel insecure or unsafe or frightened?**

**What is preventing you from living courageously for God?**

2

*Psalm 27*

1-3: **The Lord is the stronghold of my life**

- 4-6: • Many different words for what threatens me
- 7-12: – Wicked, enemies, foes, army, war, wild animals
- 13-14: – Poetry: refers to whatever makes me insecure
- Irony:
    - God is so great that my enemies who try to trip me are the ones who stumble and fall
  - God protects in the extreme cases
    - Evil people seeking to devour me
    - Even a whole army or a whole war is against me!
  - So God protects me from lesser things too

3

*Psalm 27*

1-3: The Lord is the stronghold of my life

4-6: **Hope and joy are found in the presence of God**

- 7-12: • Being with God is both a request and a pursuit
- 13-14: • Rather than hoping in the absence of trouble
- Multiple words for places of blessing
    - House of the Lord, beauty of the LORD, temple, dwelling, sacred tent, rock
    - It is not a physical location but a place of the heart
  - “Gaze upon the beauty of the Lord”
    - to experience, rejoice in, and be transformed by the glory of God
  - An intentional and determined action of the soul

4

*Psalm 27*

1-3: The Lord is the stronghold of my life

4-6: Hope and joy are found in the presence of God

7-12: **“Hear my voice when I call, Lord”**

- 13-14:
- Active pursuit of God’s presence
    - Call out, seeking His face (personal connection)
    - Request: teach me, lead me
      - Commitment to take action in obedience
  - Confidence in God’s compassion and care
    - Even beyond the compassion and care from parents

5

*Psalm 27*

1-3: The Lord is the stronghold of my life

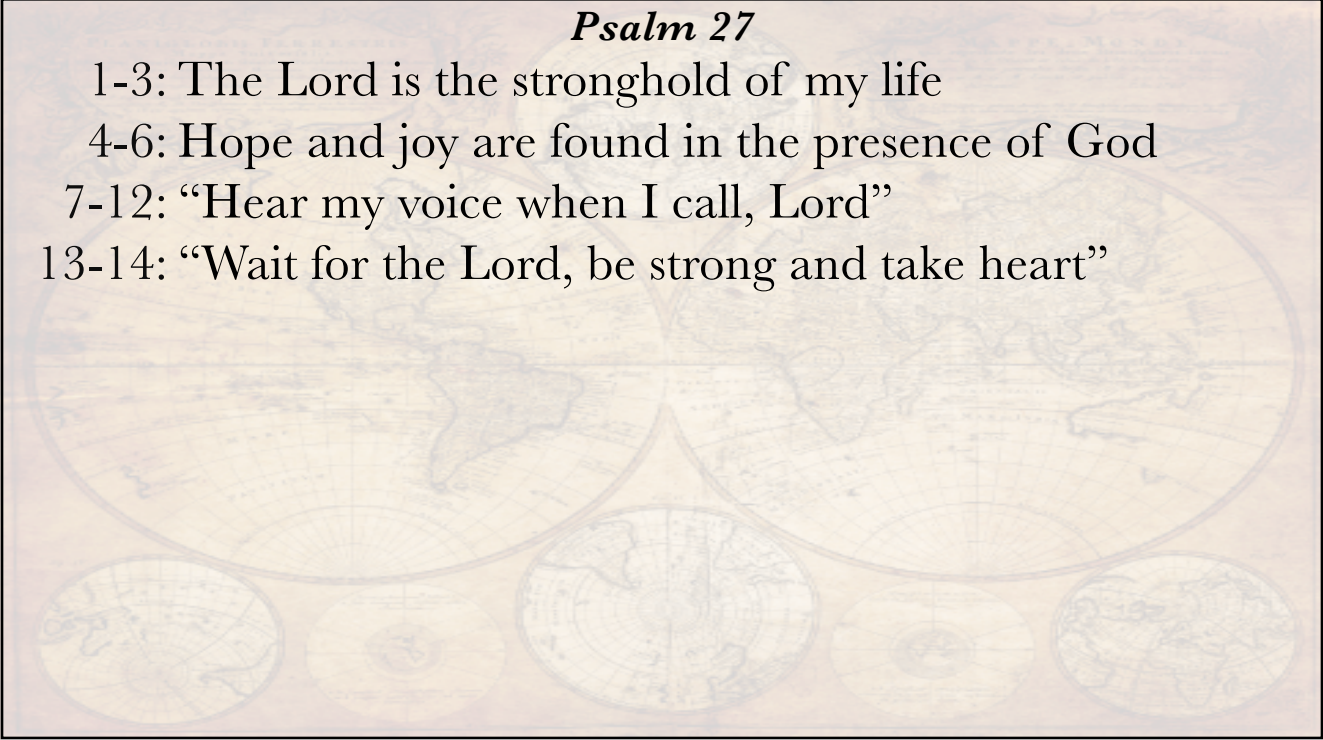
4-6: Hope and joy are found in the presence of God

7-12: “Hear my voice when I call, Lord”

13-14: **“Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart”**

- Confidence:
  - See, experience, rejoice in God’s goodness in this life
  - Fully experience God’s goodness in life after death
- Wait=hope in
- Be strong and take heart=courageously obey
- A command to one’s own heart
  - And then to the hearts of others

6



*Psalm 27*

1-3: The Lord is the stronghold of my life

4-6: Hope and joy are found in the presence of God

7-12: “Hear my voice when I call, Lord”

13-14: “Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart”

7



**The Big Idea**

The LORD is the matchless stronghold of our lives  
no matter what dangers or troubles we face

8

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

9

As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth,  
**nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from  
the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*Romans 8:31-39*

10

## The Big Idea

The LORD is the matchless stronghold of our lives  
no matter what dangers or troubles we face

11

## *Application*

- Re-see the world: God alone is God over all
  - God is the only and true stronghold, light, salvation, ...
    - No matter what trouble we face
      - Coronavirus, enemies, personal failures, sin, shame, death, ...
    - Rather than people or human discoveries or medicines or techniques or willpower [or the lack of them]
  - God calls us to live in faith AND wisdom
    - What is motivating your head, heart, and hands?
      - The same actions can be sinful for one (from fear) and godly for another (from wisdom and faith)

12

### *Application*

- Re-see the world: God alone is God over all
- Pursue God! “Your face, Lord, I will seek.”
  - Look at God
    - Pray, genuinely and fervently
    - Meditate on His beauty, glory, power, not on the trouble
    - **Overflow** with thankfulness and praise to God
  - **Those who seek God find Him**

13

### *Application*

- Re-see the world: God alone is God over all
- Pursue God! “Your face, Lord, I will seek.”
  - Look at God
  - Live with God in our head, heart, and hands
    - Obey / take action: boldness, perseverance
    - To forgive and bless, rather than meditate on wrongs
    - To put the needs of others before our own needs
    - To take compassionate action for those in trouble

14

## The Big Idea

The LORD is the matchless stronghold of our lives  
no matter what dangers or troubles we face

**What is the “life force” of your life today?**

- **Look intently at God**
- **Live boldly for God**