



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – October 26, 2023

The Lord be with you.

Between a rock and a hard place, between the devil and the deep blue sea, up a creek without a paddle. We all have ways of describing, facing trouble, facing difficult problems, so if you find yourself in any of those hard places today or anywhere near them, I have some encouraging words for you from God's word. As I am looking, yet again, at another Psalm of David, a man after God's own heart. A man also so often between a rock and a hard place, whether David is facing giants, or facing whole armies against him, David has words that have helped and encouraged me again and again, and I think they can help and encourage you today. I'm in Psalm 27, where David tells us his troubles, David says, "evil doers have sailed me to devour my flesh, adversaries and foes stand against me, enemies have risen up against me, breathing up violence." And then at the climax of Psalm 27, the last two verses, 13 and 14, David says, confidently in the midst of many enemies, many troubles. David says, "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord. Be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord."

David speaks these words of affirmation, he speaks them not only as self-encouragement, but also as encouragement to you and me, I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Now, when David talks about the land of the living, he's not talking about heaven, but he's talking about life in this world. You see, we're not gonna have to wait until we go to Heaven to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. To see that the land of the living in the book of Psalms, he's not talking about heaven, but he's talking about life in this world. Check out for in some Psalm 116:9 in Psalm 142:5. So because David knows that we're going to see the goodness of the Lord in this life, in this world, he then encourages - Wait for the Lord. Be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord. Twice for emphasis, David repeats, wait for the Lord. Wait for the Lord.

David and the other Psalmist, they know quite a lot about waiting for the Lord, such that that they actually use several different Hebrew words translated by our one word, wait. There is, for instance, a Hebrew word expressing. Waiting patiently. Another expressing, waiting silently. Another expressing, waiting long. The Hebrew word here for wait for the Lord is the word quavah and quavah has the idea of waiting expectantly, waiting with hope. So that you often find the word quavah put together with the Hebrew word for hope. Quavah means that in the midst of



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our troubles, in the midst of our problems, we wait with hope, we wait with expectation for the goodness of the Lord, confident that God is going to show up, that God is going to keep His promise to us. I have found that an appointment with a good doctor is worth waiting for... Well, how much more is God worth waiting for? This word Quavah, waiting with hope, with the expectation, but it's the very word used by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah Chapter 40:31. Perhaps you know the verse, Those who wait for the Lord, they 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.

And so back here in Psalm 27, David does some important self-talk as well as talking to you and me. Wait, wait with expectation. Wait with hope for the Lord, be strong. And the idea is that as we wait with the expectation for the Lord, that we gain strength, that we find ourselves becoming strong, wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage, wait for the Lord, and so we act with courage, just like David did, as we wait for the Lord and to act, to show us his goodness his saving help.

Now, I do not know what kind of trouble you might be facing today, but as you wait with expectation, as you wait with hope for the Lord, you will become strong, you will find courage in your actions. So the bottom line of Psalm 27, the takeaway is this, that when you were in trouble, wait for the Lord with expectation, with Hope, because in the land of the living in this life, you are going to see the goodness of the Lord for you. Ben Patterson in his fine book, Waiting subtitled, Finding Hope in God seems silent. Then Paterson says, that is wonderful, as that which we wait for is what God is doing in us while we wait, so as you wait for the Lord in the midst of your troubles, you will find yourself growing. Growing in strength. Growing in courage. And then at the right moment, God will come through. Never too early, never too late. God will show you his goodness. These are two Bible verses that are, well, they're well worn in my Bible, as they have meant so much to me through the years, as I found them to be true, and you will too, because it is ever God's will to bless you.

So I pray for you today, these words from Holy Scripture, The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you peace.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.