

When in need of confidence

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me,
uttering slanders against me
my adversaries and foes,
they shall stumble and fall.

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

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.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent,
he will set me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies round about me;
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
Thou hast said, "Seek ye my face."
My heart says to thee,
"Thy face, Lord, do I seek."
Hide not thy face from me.

Turn not thy servant away in anger,
thou who hast been my help.
Cast me not off, forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!
For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me up.

Teach me thy way, O Lord;
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,

and they breathe out violence.

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;
yea, wait for the Lord!

Psalm 31

In thee, O Lord, do I seek refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in thy righteousness deliver me!
Incline thy ear to me,
rescue me speedily!
Be thou a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!

Yea, thou art my rock and my fortress;
for thy name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net which is hidden for me,
for thou art my refuge.
Into thy hand I commit my spirit;
thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Thou hates those who pay regard to vain idols;
but I trust in the Lord.
I will rejoice and be glad for thy steadfast love,
because thou hast seen my affliction,
thou hast taken heed of my adversities,
and hast not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;
thou hast set my feet in a broad place.

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief,
my soul and my body also.
For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,[b]
and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror[c] to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.
Yea, I hear the whispering of many—
terror on every side! —
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in thee, O Lord,
I say, "Thou art my God."
My times are in thy hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors!
Let thy face shine on thy servant;
save me in thy steadfast love!

Let me not be put to shame, O Lord,
for I call on thee;
let the wicked be put to shame,
let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.
Let the lying lips be dumb,
which speak insolently against the righteous
in pride and contempt.

O how abundant is thy goodness,
which thou hast laid up for those who fear thee,
and wrought for those who take refuge in thee,
in the sight of the sons of men!
In the covert of thy presence thou hides them
from the plots of men;
thou holds them safe under thy shelter
from the strife of tongues.

Blessed be the Lord,
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
when I was beset as in a besieged city.
I had said in my alarm,
"I am driven far[d] from thy sight."
But thou didst hear my supplications,
when I cried to thee for help.

Love the Lord, all you his saints!
The Lord preserves the faithful,
but abundantly requites him who acts haughtily.
Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord!

Psalm 56

Be gracious to me, O God,
for men trample upon me;
all day long foemen oppress me; my enemies trample upon me all day long,
for many fight against me proudly.
When I am afraid,
I put my trust in thee.
In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust without a fear.
What can flesh do to me?
All day long they seek to injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.
They band themselves together, they lurk,
they watch my steps.
As they have waited for my life,
so recompense^[a] them for their crime;
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!
Thou hast kept count of my tossings;
put thou my tears in thy bottle!
Are they not in thy book?
Then my enemies will be turned back
in the day when I call.
This I know, that^[b] God is for me.
In God, whose word I praise,

in the LORD, whose word I praise,
in God I trust without a fear.
What can man do to me?
My vows to thee I must perform, O God;
I will render thank offerings to thee.
For thou hast delivered my soul from death,
yea, my feet from falling,
that I may walk before God
in the light of life.