

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE	Stability in the Storm
---------------------	------------------------

SERIES	
---------------	--

DATE	9/12/2021
-------------	-----------

KEY SCRIPTURE	Psalm 27
----------------------	----------

SYNOPSIS	In the midst of troubles, we can remain confident of God's goodness as we focus on him.
-----------------	---

HIGHLIGHTS	
-------------------	--



☞ Stability in the Storm

The last few weeks we've been talking about going through the storms of life. We all have them, and for many, it's really fresh. Trouble is brewing all around. Psalm 27 also speaks of troubles: verse 2 mentions evil men, enemies and foes; verse 3 speaks of an army attacking and war breaking out; verse 12 speaks of false witnesses and those who threaten violence.

This world is filled with all kinds of trouble. Jesus, himself said that in this world we would have trouble (John 16:33). So, we don't deny the troubles in our lives and we don't pretend that everything is just peachy all the time. There really are troubles in this life. But the Scripture reminds us that the Lord has overcome the world and the ultimate victory is in him.

☞ Psalms 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

☞ It is **God who gives us light**: he is our source of life and happiness and joy; he is the one who sheds his light to help us to see **truth**; he is the one who helps us **understand**; he is the one who shows his favor; he is the one who prospers us. It's not "things" or possessions that give us true joy. It's the Lord. It's not education that gives understanding. It's the Lord. It's not wealth that gives us prosperity. It's the Lord. He's the source of all these good things.

☞ The **Lord is our salvation**: he is our **deliverer**; he comes to our rescue; he gives the **victory**; he is sufficient for all of our needs; he is the one who keeps us free from distress even in the midst of trouble. It's not our own strength; it's not our own cleverness; it's not our hard work or wealth. It's the Lord. He is our salvation.

☞ The **Lord is our stronghold**: he is our **defense**; he is our **refuge**; he is our protection. It's not our strength; it's not our home; it's not even our family and friends. It's the Lord who watches over us.

☞ Psalms 27:5

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

☞ **The Lord** is the one who **keeps us safe**: he covers us in his presence; he **keeps us close** and even hides us from the enemy; he gives us shelter in the secret place of his presence; he **raises us up**, out of reach of the enemy. It's not our wisdom or wealth that saves us; it's not our strategies that protect us; it's not our ability. It's the Lord. He is our rock; he is our high tower; he is our fortress.

Therefore...

☞ Psalms 27:4

4 One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord



all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

☞ Since everything we need to survive is found in him, **we simply need more of the Lord**. When you don't see or understand what is going on, you need more light – the Lord is your light, so get closer to him. When you are overwhelmed with the pressures of life, you need deliverance – the Lord is your salvation, so turn to him. When you are being attacked by the enemy and others, you need a safe place – the Lord is your stronghold, so run to him; abide in him.

☞ **The Lord needs to be your one thing**. You need him to be first place in your life, above all else. So many things call for our attention and energy, but we must put God first.

City Slickers: Curly's secret to life – his finger. One thing.

This one thing reminds us to get rid of other distractions so that we can focus on the Lord. The priority of the Lord is something to be desired, asked for and sought after. "This is what I seek" ☞ indicates a choice to **earnestly pursue the Lord in worship and prayer**. It's not a lackadaisical approach; it's not just when you have a spare moment; this is intense. This is a deep search for a connection with God.

The **connection with God is what really matters**. "To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord" is to contemplate on the goodness of God. It's a connection with the Lord that experiences his presence, his goodness and grace. It's more than just knowing about God's goodness; more than just knowing about God's presence; it is actually experiencing the Lord. It is transformative.

2 Corinthians 3:18 speaks of seeing or beholding the glory of the Lord, and when we do, the Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ, making us more like him. We often talk about being more like Christ. That occurs less by striving to be *like* him and much more by seeking to be *with* him. You become more and more like the people you hang out with. Married couples start sounding alike and finishing each other's sentences. Close friends often have the same sense of humor and even develop similar mannerisms. It's the same spiritually – we need more time with the Lord; then, we become more like him.

We "seek him in his temple." For us today, this could be a reminder of the purpose of our church gatherings. It's not about the music; it's not about the sermon; it's not about the fellowship. While those are all beneficial, they are not the reason we have church. We have church so that we can nurture our connection with God. I've said before that my greatest desire for you on a Sunday morning is that you experience the presence and power of God. You may be encouraged by a song or two – fine. You may be challenged by the sermon – fine. You may enjoy your church friends – fine as well. But the primary purpose of coming to church is to connect with God. Make sure you are pursuing the Lord when you are here. **Look for him; ☞ listen for him; connect with him.**

Once you've made that kind of connection with God, you need to maintain it. "That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." The goal is to have this **intimate**



☞ **connection with God continually.** Church can be a weekly booster but you can connect with God daily. You can get to a place where you see God at work in every aspect of life. That is a worthy goal.

When you are connecting with God in this manner then...

Psalms 27:6

my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

You can rise above the troubles of this life and learn the secret of being content in any situation.

☞ **Philippians 4:12-13**

I have learned the **secret of being content in any and every situation**, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want... **I can do all things through Christ** who strengthens me.

Our strength comes from Christ. Our ability to endure; our ability to be joyful; our ability to always be content is in Christ.

☞ **Psalms 27:13**

I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

When we are connected to the Lord, experiencing his presence on a daily or continual basis, then our confidence is reinforced. We can be certain and sure of God's goodness.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance (certainty) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

We can keep the faith and be confident of God's goodness even when, at the moment, we aren't seeing it in the natural. And, we can be sure that we will, in due time, see the goodness ☞ of God in this life. **God's best will still be revealed.** His benefits will come.

So, with this renewed confidence, we...

☞ **Psalms 27:14**

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

☞ We **patiently wait for God to come through.** We look for his power with great expectation. We hang on tight to his promises; we stand courageously, strengthened in our faith, knowing ☞ that **God will keep his promises.** God will keep us close; he will cover us; he will lift us up. ☞ **God is faithful, so we wait on him.**

Closing options: The Power of Your Presence; Faithful Now; Better is One Day