

Message: 'Wait, I say, on the Lord!'

Date: 20 September 2026

Service: Centurion

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Psalm 27:14

**¹⁴ Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart.
Wait, I say, on the Lord!**

We live in a world where we want to control things in our lives, things around us. Where it feels good to be in charge of our lives. But if you've lived on this earth for a while you will begin to understand that life is not as binary as we make it out be. Life is unpredictable, we're not always in control of our circumstances and experiences.

Whilst this is the crescendo of the entire psalm prior to this David addresses some pertinent issues in the preceding 13 verses of this Psalm. Matters that he had wrestled with, dynamics that had shaped his confidence, the trajectory of his life, his faith, his journey with the Lord at least up to that particular stage of his life.

In this message we will journey back to the principles, revelation and experiences that culminated in this final command, charge, a reminder, and a promise:

Wait, I say, on the Lord!

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Psalm 27:1

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?

Light:

God is our light in the dark, uncertainly, turmoil, fear, disillusionment, pain, sin, relational crisis, inadequacy, sickness and depression.

Principle #1: Waiting on the Lord and allows Him to bring a different perspective on your situation.

Question: Are you willing to step back and allow the Lord to bring in His perspective on what you are going through?

The light of God illuminates, brings clarity, direction, revelation, and safety. When God is your light, darkness cannot confuse you, fear cannot paralyse you, lies cannot mislead you and uncertainty cannot overwhelm you.

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“...and my salvation.”

Salvation is rescue, deliverance, protection, and victory. David is not hoping God will save him, he is declaring that God **is** his salvation. Salvation results in

- Freedom from sin

Ephesians 1:7. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

- Eternal life – the gift of God

Romans 6:23. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Rescued me from the miry clay

Psalms 40:2. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps.

- Lifter of my head

Psalms 3:3. But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the one who lifts up my head.

- Salvation raises...

2 Samuel: 8. He raises the poor from the dust. And lifts the beggar from the ash heap. To set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and He has set the world upon them.

- Child of God

John 1:12. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17. ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, ¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

- Restored relationship with God

Ephesians 2:13.¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Principle 2: Waiting of the Lord allows you to appreciate the benefits of salvation.

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Strength of my life...

Isaiah 12:2. For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song. He also has become my salvation.

Isaiah 35:3. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

Principle 3: Waiting on the Lord is the deliberate surrender of one's own strength and ability and the recognition that God is the power behind your life and the force that sustains you.

When God is your strength, you don't collapse under pressure, faint in adversity, break under attack or crumble in weakness. Your life is upheld by divine strength.

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Whom shall I fear? Of whom shall I be afraid?

Fear is not just an emotion it is a **response to perceived threat**. But when God is your light, salvation, and strength, threats lose their power.

Romans 8:31. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

James 1:2-4. ²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Principle # 4: When you wait on the Lord without fear, your confidence becomes anchored in His character.

Question? What fears are crippling you in this season?

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²When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. ³Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear. Though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.

Principle # 5: Waiting on the Lord empowers you to keep moving faithfully, even in the slow places.

Question: Are you on the verge of giving up something, a dream, a passion close to the heart just because if you seem to be facing incessant obstacles?

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Psalms 27:4. One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek, 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.

David reduces his entire life to one **pursuit**. One **priority**. One **longing**. One **obsession**.

David is not asking for a **visit**, he is asking for a **dwelling**.

To dwell in the house of the Lord means to live in His presence, remain under His covering, stay near His voice, anchored in His glory and make God's presence your home.

"All the days of my life" means: "I don't want seasons with You, I want a lifetime with You." It means to dwell in:

- His Word and revelation of your Word

Colossians: 3:16. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 119:105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- Nature

Romans 8:29. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- destiny
- presence
- purposes
- will
- presence
- throne room
- wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of God.

Isaiah 11:2. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding. The Spirit of counsel and might. The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

- hope
- peace

2 Thessalonians 3:16. Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Seek that:

The eyes of my understanding become enlightened:

Ephesians 1:18. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

Principle # 6: Waiting on the Lord awakens a longing for His presence to become a lifestyle, not a moment, a habitation, not merely a visitation.

Question: To what extent do you long for the presence of God in your life?

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Psalm 27:4b. To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple:

God character, God's nature is beautiful:

We need to come to that place where say of God:

- Your holiness is beautiful
- Your righteousness is beautiful
- Your goodness is beautiful
- Your mercy is beautiful
- Your grace is beautiful
- Your forgiveness is beautiful
- Your nature is beautiful

Lord take us to that place where we consistently inquire of you. Guide us by your Holy Spirit. Open the right doors, close the wrong ones. Bring us to places where we will flourish. Places where we will find favour and doors open.

“Inquire” means to seek wisdom, direction, revelation, and understanding. David wants to be in the place where God speaks, where God reveals, where God guides.

This is the posture of someone who knows that life's answers are found in God's presence, not outside it.

Principle #7: Waiting on the Lord teaches us to behold God's beauty and trains our hearts to inquire of Him.

Question: How consistent are you when it comes to inquiring of the Lord?

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Psalm 27:5. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion, in the secret place of His tabernacle, He shall hide me. He shall set me high upon a rock.

This verse is David's confidence in God's protective presence. It is a three-fold promise, He hides you, He shelters you, and He lifts you.

“For in the time of trouble...”

David does not say if trouble comes, he says in the time of trouble. Trouble is part of life. But so is God’s protection.

Trouble may come, but trouble does not get the final say. Trouble may rise, but trouble does not get the final authority. Trouble may surround you, but trouble does not get the final outcome.

“In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me...”

The secret place is the most intimate part of God’s presence. It is the place where:

- fear cannot enter
- the enemy cannot reach
- anxiety cannot dominate
- lies cannot penetrate
- darkness cannot prevail

The secret place is where God keeps you close, covers you deeply, and protects you completely.

“He shall set me high upon a rock.”

After hiding you, God **lifts** you. He doesn’t just protect you. He elevates you.

To be set high upon a rock means:

- God gives you stability
- God gives you perspective
- God gives you advantage
- God gives you victory
- God lifts you above what tried to bury you

The rock represents strength, security, and elevation. It is God saying, “I will not only keep you safe, I will set you above the trouble.”

This is not just protection, it is promotion. Not just survival, it is strengthening. Not just hiding, it is honoring.

Psalm 91: 1-2

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High. Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress. My God, in Him I will trust.”

The secret place of God, even the storms and seas of life.

Psalm 93:3-4

The floods have lifted up, O Lord. The floods have lifted up their voice. The floods lift up their waves.⁴ The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters. Than the mighty waves of the sea.

Set us high upon a rock. A place of stability, security. Hide me in the place of immunity. Where we know that you are unmoveable.

Principle # 8: Waiting on the Lord places you in a realm of divine immunity.

Question: To whom do you run when in times of trouble? Who is your refuge?

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Psalm 27:6. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me...

There are times when we go through life and it is only God who can lift up your head. There are moments in life when no **human words**, no **inner strength**, and no **external support** can lift you. Only God can. He is the lifter of your head:

Psalm 3:3. But You, O Lord, are a shield for me. My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

Maybe you've been feeling defeated... disempowered...overwhelmed. Maybe you've walked through experiences that left you embarrassed, ashamed, or questioning your worth. Maybe you've carried mistakes that feel irreversible, or regrets that seem too heavy to shake off. Life has a way of pressing your head down, but God has a way of lifting it up.

Situations that have negatively affected your self-esteem, stature.

Joshua 5:9. Then the Lord said to Joshua, “This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” Therefore, the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

God specialises in removing reproach. He rolls away the **weight of your past**, the **sting of your failures**, and the **labels life tried** to place on you.

Maybe you’ve asked yourself, **“What do I have to show for my life? What do I have to show for my walk with God?”** Maybe people have **mocked** you, **questioned** your faith, or **pointed** at your pain saying, “Where is your God?”

Psalms 42:3. My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?”

But hear this, God is the One who lifts your head so you can **believe again**. So you can **trust again**. So you can **see differently again**. So you can **rise again**. So you can **hope again**. So you can wake up to a new day and be encouraged.

Ephesians 3:16. that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

When God lifts your head, He doesn’t just change your posture, He changes your perspective.

When God lifts your head...

He exalts you.

1 Samuel 2:8. He raises the poor from the dust. And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory.

God lifts you from low places into places of honour.

He removes condemnation.

Romans 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

Your head no longer hangs in guilt, He lifts it in grace.

He breaks fear.

2 Timothy 1:7. For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Maybe your head is down because of fear, fear of the unknown, fear of the future, fear of failure, endless fear:

When fear pushes your head down, God's Spirit lifts it up.

Proverbs 4:16. For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.

God is waiting to propel you into your next season.

Principle # 9: When you wait on the Lord God He lifts you., raises your gaze and He restores your posture.

Question: In which areas of your life do you need Gog to lift your head up?

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Psalm 27:6b...therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle. I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

Take our relationship with you to that place where we offer sacrifices of joy to you. Where we will consistently sing praises to you. Where we take time out to – prolonged times of worship and praise to you. Expressions of our joy not only out circumstances but our joy in you, our God.

Where praise is not an event but a lifestyle. Where we carve out time even individually, to worship You with depth, with sincerity, with affection.

Help us to come to that place where our hearts overflow with expressions of joy that are not dependent on what is happening around us, but **anchored in who You are.**

Teach us to rejoice in You, our God, our refuge, our strength. Let our joy rise from the revelation of Your **goodness**, Your **faithfulness**, Your **presence**.

May our worship be the sound of hearts **lifted**, **restored**, and **strengthened**.

Principle # 10: Waiting on the Lord takes you that place, where joy become your sacrifice, praise is our posture, and worship is our dwelling.

Question: To what extent do you offer sacrifices of joy to God?

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Psalm 27:7. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

There are moments when your voice becomes more than sound, it becomes the echo of your heart, an expression of what lies within your heart. It carries the depth of what you feel, what you fear, what you long for, and what you cannot articulate to anyone else.

Luke 6:45. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Your voice is unique. Your cry is unique. Your sound before God is unlike anyone else's.

Your voice reveals what your heart holds, its treasures, its wounds, its hopes, its heaviness.

When you cry out to God, you're not just speaking words, you're releasing the contents of your heart. Your cry carries your history. It carries your disappointments. It carries your hidden battles.

And God hears that voice. Not the polished one. Not the rehearsed one. Not the public one. He hears the cry that comes from the deepest part of you.

Principle #11: When you wait fully on the Lord, he hears your voice.

Question: Are you ashamed to cry out to the Lord in time of Need?

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Have mercy also upon me...

When David cries out for mercy, he is appealing to one of the most defining attributes of God, His steadfast, overflowing, ever-renewing mercy.

Psalm 103:8

The Lord is merciful and gracious. Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

God doesn't just have mercy. He abounds in it. He overflows with it. Mercy is not a moment with God, it is His nature.

Lamentations 3:22-23. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.

Every sunrise is a fresh release of mercy. Every morning carries a new supply of compassion. God's mercy does not run out, dry up, or expire. It meets you again and again.

Father, give us a revelation of your mercy. Often, we associate the mercy of God with the forgiveness of sins. Correct. But I don't believe that it ends there.

His mercy reaches into the places where we are fragile, weary, overwhelmed, and undone.

God's mercy shows up in our weaknesses:

2 Corinthians 12:10. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

God's mercy shows up in our weaknesses, not to expose us, but to strengthen us.

God's mercy meets us in:

- **infirmities** to give endurance
- **reproaches** to restore dignity
- **needs** to provide supply
- **persecutions** to give courage
- **distresses** to bring peace

Principle 12: As we wait on the Lord: God's mercy shows up in our weaknesses to strengthen us, discouraged to encouraged, confusion to bring clarity.

Question: do you really have a revelation of God's mercy?

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and answer me...

David requests God to answer Him. David is asking for a **real answer** from a **real God**. He is praying with expectation, boldness and urgency.

Sometimes we pray and just hope that the answer will come somewhere in the sweet by and by. But...

Psalm 130:2. Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive. To the voice of my supplications.

We are appealing to the God who has a history of answering His people:

- He answered Hagar in the wilderness.
- He answered Hannah in her bitterness of soul.
- He answered Elijah on Mount Carmel.
- He answered David in caves, valleys, and battlefields.
- He answered Paul in prison.
- He answered you in moments you didn't even recognize as answers.

Principle 13: God answers prayers...even though it may be in His timing.

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Psalm 27:8. When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."

Note the response of the heart: **"Your face, Lord, I will seek."**

Relinquishment of every **burden, pain, need**. Waiting is not **passive**. Waiting is not **resignation**. Waiting is the posture of a heart that has laid down **its fight**, its **resistance**, its **self-reliance**, and its **need to control outcomes**.

Waiting is the quiet yielding of the soul that says:

"Lord, I will seek You before I seek answers."

"I will seek Your face before I seek solutions."

“I will seek Your presence before I seek relief.”

Matthew 11: 28-30. ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

This is the heart of waiting, coming to Him. Not carrying your own weight. Not dragging your burdens alone. Not fighting battles in your own strength.

Rest is not found in inactivity, it is found in **alignment**. Rest comes when you take His yoke, not yours. Rest comes when you learn His rhythm, not yours. Rest comes when you surrender your heavy burdens for His light ones.

This is the invitation of Psalm 27:8:

A heart that seeks Him. A heart that yields to Him. A heart that rests in Him. A heart that waits, not with frustration, but with faith.

Principle 14: Waiting is about complete obedience to God, no fighting, complete surrender.

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Psalm 27:9. Do not hide Your face from me. Do not turn Your servant away in anger, You have been my help. Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.

- Can you image the pain of having God hide your face from you?
- How about Him turning you away in anger?
- You have been my help...

David’s words here carry **urgency**, **vulnerability**, and **dependence**. He is praying from a place where the presence of God is not optional, it is essential.

To have God hide His face would mean:

- no light
- no guidance
- no comfort

- no assurance
- no sense of His nearness

Deuteronomy 33:26 “There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the heavens to help you, and in His excellency on the clouds.

Deuteronomy 33:29. Happy *are* you, O Israel! Who *is* like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help and the sword of your majesty!

Joshua 1:5. No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5. Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

How about the thought of God turning you away in anger?

It is a terrifying image, not because God is harsh, but because His presence is our lifeline. David knows that if God turns him away, he has nowhere else to go. No substitute. No alternative. No backup plan.

You have been my help:

This is the turning point of the verse. David shifts from fear to memory. From anxiety to testimony. From “What if You leave me?” to “But You never have.”

“You have been my help.” You have carried me. You have defended me. You have rescued me. You have sustained me. You have answered me. You have lifted me. You have kept me.

Principle 15:

Waiting on the Lord teaches us that the presence of Gos is not optional in waiting, it is essential.

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Psalm 27:11. Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.

David shifts from pleading for God's presence to asking for God's direction. This is the heart of a surrendered worshipper, someone who doesn't just want God's protection, but God's instruction.

To say, "Teach me Your way," is to confess:

- I don't know everything
- I can't trust my own impulses
- I need divine guidance
- I want to walk in Your truth, not my assumptions
- I want Your way, even when it contradicts my way

"...and lead me in a smooth path..."

A "smooth path" does not mean an easy life. It means uncomplicated path, one free from traps, detours, and hidden dangers.

David is surrounded by enemies. Enemies create instability. Enemies create confusion. Enemies create pressure. Enemies create distraction.

So David prays, "Lord, in the midst of pressure, don't let me walk a crooked path. Don't let me stumble into traps. Don't let me be misled by fear. Lead me in a smooth path, one that You have cleared, levelled, and secured."

A smooth path is a **God-directed path**. A path where He goes before you. A path where He removes obstacles. A path where He gives clarity. A path where He steadies your steps.

Psalm 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

John 3:34. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

Psalm 27:12

¹² Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries for false witnesses have risen against me and such as breathe out violence.

Our prayer should be that God preserves rather than deliver us to the will of our adversaries...because they can be wicked.

“Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries...”

David understands something profound: If God does not protect him, his enemies will prevail. If God does not intervene, their plans will succeed. If God does not shield him, their will becomes his reality.

This is not fear, it is dependence.

Principle # 16: Waiting on the Lord allows God to protect you.

Psalm 27:13. I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

This is one of the most honest confessions David ever makes. He is admitting that he came close to giving up. Close to fainting. Close to breaking. Close to losing heart.

“I would have lost heart...”

David is not speaking theoretically, he is speaking from experience. He had moments where the pressure was too much, the enemies too many, the accusations too loud, the waiting too long, the loneliness too deep.

He is saying, “I was right at the edge. I was inches away from collapse. I almost let go.”

God is the God of hope.

...unless I had believed...”

What kept David from losing heart was not his strength, not his skill, not his position, not his resilience. It was **belief**.

Faith was the thin thread that kept him from falling apart. Belief was the anchor that held him when everything else was shaking. Hope was the quiet whisper that kept him from quitting.

David is saying, “My circumstances didn’t keep me standing, my belief did.”

“...that I would see the goodness of the Lord...”

Not might see. Not could see. Not hopefully see.

I would see.

David believed that God’s goodness was not theoretical, it was tangible. Not distant, it was near. Not reserved for heaven, it was available on earth.

He believed that God’s goodness would break into his reality, interrupt his battles, invade his darkness, and show up in his lifetime.

“...in the land of the living.”

This is powerful. David is saying, “I’m not just believing for heaven, I’m believing for now.” “I’m not just expecting God to be good in eternity, I’m expecting Him to be good in my lifetime.” “I will see His goodness while I’m still breathing, still fighting, still walking through this life.”

This is faith that refuses to postpone hope. Faith that refuses to push God’s goodness into the future. Faith that expects God to move here, now, in the land of the living.

Romans 15:13. Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Principle 1#17”: Waiting on the Lord allows you to experience the goodness of God.

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Psalm 27:14. Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Waiting is not passive. Waiting is not doing nothing. Waiting is not sitting in uncertainty hoping something will change.

Waiting is trusting. Waiting is resting. Waiting is leaning. Waiting is surrendering your timeline to God's wisdom.

Waiting is the posture of someone who believes that God's timing is better than their urgency.

Waiting says: "I refuse to run ahead of God." "I refuse to panic." "I refuse to force what God has not released." "I will stay aligned with Him until He moves."

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