

Oh Lord, You're Beautiful; Psalm 27:4

I. Light

- A. I think we have a natural fear of the dark, the unknown
 - 1. "There are only two things open after midnight — hospitals and jail cells, and you don't want to be at either one"
 - 2. The monster under the bed only comes out at night, after the lights are out
 - 3. Most every horror film has all the scary parts at night or in the dark
 - 4. We are afraid of what we cannot see, or of what we do not know
 - 5. They even put flashlights on our cell phones — and you can turn them on by just asking your personal assistant, whether it be Google or SIRI
- B. Even when talking about knowledge and understanding — "I see the light"
- C. In the battle of righteousness versus evil light is portrayed as good and darkness as evil
 - 1. Star Wars — The dark side of the force versus the light side
 - 2. The Bible — there are many references to light and darkness
 - 3. Psalm 27:1 (ESV); 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?
- D. Light is a natural figure for almost everything that is positive, from truth and goodness to joy and vitality ¹
 - 1. Psalm 43:3 (ESV); Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!
 - 2. Isaiah 5:20 (ESV); Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
 - a) This is a very serious problem today — we see it in all forms of society, especially the media; television, movies, social networks, news, etc.
 - b) Society is trying to blur the line between light and dark, good and evil, righteousness and sin
 - c) Jesus is very clear on this, "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:13, 9:5)
 - d) Jesus also transfers that responsibility to us, "You are the light of the world"
 - e) Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV); ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
 - f) We are supposed to provide a clear distinction between righteousness and sin
- E. Those who dwell in the light are resting in the Father's arms

II. Stronghold

- A. They are in a stronghold
- B. Psalm 27:2–3 (ESV); ² When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
- C. Mountain stronghold, place of refuge ²
- D. A secure fortress, a fortified city, a place (or person, God) which protects life
 - 1. Proverbs 18:10 (ESV); The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

¹ Derek Kidner, *Psalms 1–72: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 15, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973), 138.

² Ludwig Koehler et al., *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 610.

2. Psalm 61:1–3 (ESV); ¹ Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; ² from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, ³ for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.
 3. Unassailable — no one can get to you as long as you remain in the stronghold
 - a) I imagine Minas Tirith From the Lord of the Rings
 - b) Not even Grond from the Lord of the Rings can penetrate the gate!
- E. Such is the Father for us — an impenetrable fortress where we seek refuge and God grants us eternal life

III. Seek

- A. Psalm 27:4 (ESV); 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 gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.
- B. To discover; to find; fetch; to search for ³
 1. I imagine the settlers moving west in the plains of the midwest as they come upon the Rocky Mountains
 2. Some might have said, “okay, we’re home. I’m not trying to find a way across those mountains”
 3. But some actually crossed them — they found a way across the mountains and to the west coast
 4. I’m sure it was daunting, hard, physically demanding, and mentally straining — but they did it — it was worth it to them to get to the other side, to put their toes in the sands on the beaches of the pacific ocean
- C. We have something better than the west coast waiting for us on the other side
 1. Sure it may be daunting — to face those who would call us names like ‘bigot’ or ‘racist’, to face our own personal tragedies and persecutions
 2. But it is worth it — to put our toes in the ‘sands’ of heaven, to spend eternity with the Father
 3. Those who have ‘crossed over’ (become Christians) are dwelling the the house of the Lord... forever (being steadfast and immovable)
 4. Those who inquire (or meditate) in his temple are comforted, protected — as long as they remain in the fortress
 5. To gaze upon the beauty fo the Lord

IV. Oh Lord, You’re Beautiful!

- A. Jesus is the Light of the world — all that is righteous and true — The Messiah, the Savior who takes away the sin of the World
- B. We ought to be running flat out to get to the fortress, the refuge
- C. We ought to be seeking the Lord, to gaze at His beauty

³ Ibid, 152.