

How to Worship Like David

Psalms 27:1-14 (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?

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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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 lift me high upon a rock. ⁶ and now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. ⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸ You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." ⁹ Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. ¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. ¹² Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. ¹³ I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

In **Psalms 27**, King David shares deep insights into worship, focusing on his personal relationship with God, the desire to be in God's presence, and the trust he places in God amidst trials and dangers. There are several key points in the psalm that highlight what worship means to David:

1. Worship Declares God is Our Refuge (Psalms 27:1-3)

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? 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. (Psalms 27:1-3)

David declares that God is his refuge. God's presence and love banish fear.

2. Worship as Seeking God's Presence (Psalm 27:4)

"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 on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple." (Psalm 27:4)

For David, worship is about seeking to be close to God, to experience His presence, and to behold His glory.

3. Worship in Times of Trouble (Psalm 27:5-6)

"For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock." And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. (Psalm 27:5-6)

Worship for David is not just for moments of peace but is even more important when facing danger or difficulty.

4. Worship as a Response to God's Faithfulness (Psalm 27:7-10)

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸ You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." ⁹ Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. (Psalms 27:7-10)

David's worship is response to God's faithfulness. Even if others abandon him, he knows that God will never leave him, and this shapes his response in worship.

5. Worship as Trust and Obedience (Psalm 27:11-14)

Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. ¹² Give me not up to the will of My adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. ¹³ I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! (Psalms 27:11-14)

In the final verses, David asks God to teach him His ways, and he desires to follow God's path. David, worship involves patience ("...wait..."), trust ("...I believe...") and an active hope in God ("...be strong and let your heart take courage.")

Conclusion:

In Psalm 27, worship is deeply personal and involves:

- A declaration that God is my refuge (Psalm 27:1-3)
- A longing to be in God's presence (Psalm 27:4).
- A commitment to trust God in all circumstances (Psalm 27:5-6).
- A response to God's faithfulness and protection (Psalm 27:7-10).
- Obedience and patience in following God's ways (Psalm 27:11-14).

David shows that worship is an ongoing relationship with God rooted in trust, longing, and obedience.

A Man After God's Own Heart

King David was called **"a man after God's own heart"** This phrase comes from (**1 Samuel 13:14**) because, despite his flaws and serious sins, he had a deep, sincere desire to follow and please God.

"But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people..."

Here's why David earned that description:

1. David Desired God's Will Above His Own

David consistently sought God's guidance. He often inquired of the Lord before making decisions, especially in battle.

1 Samuel 23:2 *"David inquired of the Lord..."*

2 Samuel 5:19 *"Shall I go up against the Philistines?"*

- David was chosen because his heart was aligned with God's purposes.

2. David Had Deep Reverence for God and His Authority

David's respect for God was evident. For instance, he refused to kill King Saul—even when he had the chance—because Saul was the Lord's anointed (1 Samuel 24:6).

1 Samuel 24:6 *"I will not stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed."*

- David revered God's authority.

3. David Was Repentant When He Sinned

David committed grievous sins (like adultery with Bathsheba and the arranged death of her husband, Uriah). But what set him apart was his genuine repentance. Psalm 51 is a raw, heartfelt confession.

Psalm 51:10 *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."* –

Psalm 51:1–4 *"Have mercy on me, O God... Against You only have I sinned..."*

2 Samuel 12:13 *"I have sinned against the Lord."*

- David didn't justify his sin—he confessed it with humility.

4. David Loved God's Word

David had a deep love for God's law and often expressed it in the Psalms. Psalm 119, is filled with praise for God's word.

Psalm 19:7–10 *"The law of the Lord is perfect... More to be desired than gold..."*

Psalm 119:97 *"Oh, how I love Your law..."*

- God's Word wasn't a burden—it was David's delight.

5. David Worshiped Passionately

David danced before the Lord with abandon (2 Samuel 6:14). His psalms became central to Israel's worship for generations. His worship was authentic, passionate, and God-centered.

2 Samuel 6:14 *"David danced before the Lord with all his might..."*

Psalm 34:1 *"I will bless the Lord at all times..."*

- David worshiped with His whole heart.

Conclusion:

David was called a man after God's own heart not because he was perfect, but because he was **devoted, humble, repentant, and longed to be aligned with God's will**. His life was marked by **a deep relationship with God**, even through failure.

David was called "*a man after God's own heart*" not because he was perfect, but because he:

- Pursued God's will,
- Honored God's authority,
- Repented sincerely,
- Loved God's Word,
- Worshiped wholeheartedly.

As a man after God's own heart, His heart was fully open to God—even in failure.