



Finding Freedom from Fear

Psalm 27

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Testimony
Community Prayer
Anthem
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Patotoo
Panalangin ng Komunida
Tanging Bilang
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Dags Miguel
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



26/27 October 2019

Vol. 41, No. 43

Finding Freedom From Fear

Today's Message (26/27 October 2019) / *Psalm 27*

LOOK
UPON EACH
THREATENING
CIRCUMSTANCE
AS AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO GROW IN
YOUR FAITH,
RATHER THAN TO
RETREAT.

One of the most paralyzing problems in life is fear. As fear gets a firm grip on us, we become its victim. How do you find freedom from fear? Take a cue from David. As David faced his fears and expressed them to God in Psalm 27, he began with worship, celebrating the power and faithfulness of God:

VERSES 1-3: DAVID'S P_____

- Verse 1 answers mankind's four greatest fears:
 - ✓ I don't have enough knowledge or wisdom—the Lord is my light.
 - ✓ I fear the consequences of my sin—the Lord is my salvation.
 - ✓ I am too weak to face the challenges of life—the Lord is my stronghold.
 - ✓ I fear illness and death—the Lord is my life.

Because the all-powerful God holds us in hands of love, we have no need to fear.

- Christians call God their light and salvation and stronghold of life because of the deliverance from sin and death given in Jesus Christ.

VERSES 4-12: DAVID'S P_____

a. To belong to the h_____ of God (vv. 4-6)

- David's supreme priority is "to gaze on the beauty of the Lord." David finds God beautiful, not just useful. To sense God's beauty in the heart is to have such pleasure in Him that you rest content.
- Trust is active and real precisely when one is aware of one's vulnerability, of one's ultimate helplessness before the threats of life, "in the day of trouble." Trust is nurtured and strengthened by the discipline of public worship.
- Then and now, to go to God's house to worship is to make your faith public. When faith is kept a private matter, unspoken and unshared, it becomes a personal project and may decay into no more than your own resolution and willpower. When faced with threats and trouble, believers

Traditional Service

(October 26, Sat., 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship Through Praise

Worship Through Fellowship

Worship Through Giving

Community Prayer

Preparatory Hymn

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Response Hymn

Benediction

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should always seek the Lord, especially in the community of worship. It is in the house of the Lord that His presence is often realized, in the midst of the congregation where God's glory is revealed.

b. To experience the _____ of God (vv. 7-10)

- “Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud.” The first six verses might make us think it was all easy for David, that when trouble came there was no struggle with self or God. Yet David showed us that even he—one who sought God with passion—sometimes felt that God did not hear him immediately.
- David begins by reminding the Lord of his invitation to people to seek him. David is not inquiring from God but earnestly pleading for the “face” of God Himself—His very presence. He is not seeking wisdom but the reassuring presence of God, who has not abandoned him even in the midst of suffering.
- Verse 10 may be translated “If my father and my mother forsake me.” From a parent, we want acceptance, to be heard, guidance, and protection. God can fulfill each of these for all, including the life that never received them from a parent (*Isaiah 49:15-16*).

c. To live in the _____ of God (vv. 11-12)

- David asks the Lord to show him how to live so he will not fall into his enemies' hands.
- False accusation has been generalized as a metaphor for the opposition that believers as individuals and as the church experience. The psalm teaches us to trust God for a way of life that will again and again be misrepresented, misunderstood, and put in question in the cultures where it is lived out.

VERSES 13-14: DAVID'S P _____

- David's cry for help doesn't end with an account of God's sudden and miraculous provision. Instead, he commits to doing what comes least naturally to people in fear. He committed to doing **nothing**. He chose to wait on God (*Hebrews 4:9-11*). Strength and courage are developed during a trial, not after it is over.
- This is not a passive sitting around until the Lord does something. Yes, God gives us strength, but He brings it to us as we seek Him, and rely on Him, instead of our own strength.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Review Psalm 27 each time you are tempted to be afraid. Look upon each threatening circumstance as an opportunity to grow in your faith, rather than to retreat. How? Follow David's example.

First: Call to mind what you know to be true about God.

Second: Express what you need in prayer.

Third: Wait on God. Let the fearful circumstance become God's opportunity to strengthen you ■

CONNECT CAMP: SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

Last August, the Connect ministry held a 3-day camp on the sufficiency of Scripture, with Pastor BJ Sebastian as keynote speaker. He led us to a wonderful study of Psalm 19:7-14 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture is important, but is easily one of the most neglected doctrines. It is important because the denial of the sufficiency of Scripture is at the core of almost every form of opposition to the Christian faith today. By that I mean that many churches are abandoning the truth claims of Scripture for the opposing truth claims of science, psychology, sociology, philosophy, and others. Of course, it is useful for the church to have some knowledge of secular disciplines such as those, as auxiliary disciplines. But we must always keep in mind that our primary responsibility is the study and application of Scripture for the edification of the church.

When the church becomes preoccupied with these auxiliary disciplines to the extent of neglecting its primary responsibility, it results in the weakening of the church. The late Reformed theologian R. C. Sproul once said, "I think the greatest weakness in the church today is that almost no one believes that God invests His power in the Bible. Everyone is looking for power in a program, in a technique, in anything and everything except where God has placed it: His Word."

The Reformers had a term for this: *sola Scriptura*, or Scripture Alone. It is the

doctrine that teaches us that Scripture alone contains every truth we need not only for our salvation, but also for our continued growth in grace and godliness. In other words, only Scripture has that absolute authority and sufficiency, and that all other truth claims are to be tested by bringing them to Scripture and comparing them with what Scripture says.

Sufficiency of Scripture is not a claim that the Bible exhaustively treats every truth it deals. It is not a claim that all truth of every kind is revealed in Scripture. But on those issues to which Scripture does speak, it speaks with absolute and supreme authority. It equips us with all the spiritual truth that we need. So, the Bible is not the exhaustive source of all true knowledge, but it is the foundation for all true knowledge. It stands above every other kind of truth. It is more authoritative and more certain than any other source, even more trustworthy than our own experiences (2 Peter 1:19). If we are to be an effective witness of our Lord Jesus to the world, and if we desire our people to grow, then it is imperative that we take this doctrine seriously.

INVITATION

Connect is GCF's ministry arm reaching out to the BPO professionals since 2006. If you are a BPO professional and you are not part of a Growth Group, we invite you to join us. We have a number of GGs that may fit your schedule, or if not and you want us to start a GG in your office, let us know and we will be more than glad to help you with it. You may contact Noli at **0917 625 0244** for more details ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



PASTORS' APPRECIATION MONTH

This whole month of October

Growth Groups are encouraged to host pastors and their families to appreciate them. For more details and to sign-up, visit the info booth.



ADOPT-A-CADET LUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Disciple future public servants through the Adopt-a-Cadet program

October 27 (Today) at the Fellowship Hall 12:00 p.m. To register, please visit the ministry information booth or text 0917 532 7725.



SEEING I TO I? EXPERIENCING GRACE IN MARRIAGE

GCF Couples' Retreat 2019

November 9-10 (Sat-Sun) at CCT Tagaytay
 Fee: P2,500/couple. Reg. deadline is on Nov. 3 (Sun). For more details, please visit the info booth or contact 0917 532 7713.



DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASS

Open to all GCFers and Growth Groups

November 10 (Sun), 12-3 p.m., Fellowship Hall
 To register, text SGI Nov2019<space>Your Name to 0917 532 7740. Pre-registration is required. Lunch and materials will be provided.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Sunflowers Growth Group

Group for women
 Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Rm. B506

Burning Hearts Chronicles GG

Group for couples
 Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 Rm. B123

Jars of Clay GG

Group for women
 Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Rm. B512

Best Together in Christ

Group for couples
 Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Rm. B508

Sowers 2

Mixed group
 Sundays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 nn.
 Rm. B514

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 779 1549.

CHURCH LEADERS ELECTION 2019

Nomination Period: **October 5-27**

Pre-qualification Period: **November 2-16**

Publication of List of Candidates:

November 30-December 8

Election Day: **December 14-15**

Nomination forms are available at the info booth every Sunday or with Ms. Grace Mosquera at the 3rd floor office.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by an anonymous donor, the Basilad family and the Messiah College. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / October 2019

OCTOBER	Projected	Rcvd., Oct. 1-24	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Oct 24
General Funds	7,875,354	5,148,377	General Funds	78,833,808	79,065,551
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	864,453	Mission Support Fund	16,918,649	12,200,208
Others (Designated, etc.)	508,402	890,443	Others (Designated, etc.)	9,777,590	12,183,713
TOTAL	9,701,454	6,903,273	TOTAL	105,530,047	103,449,471

[Jesus] climbed a mountain and invited those he wanted with him... The plan was that they would be with him, and he would send them out to proclaim the Word and give them authority to banish demons.

—Mark 3:13-15 (The Message)

Gathering a delegation in the privacy of the mountains was not new in the context of a Roman-colonized Palestine. Zealots who sought freedom from imperial rule gather like-minded people seeking to overthrow their oppressors. Much is the same with the political and religious leaders. The rulers of both imperial and religious state gather in their palaces and temples to deter any attempts of deposition. Here we see two seemingly opposing sides. But looking closer both are exploits of seizing power and control.

Jesus calls 12 of His disciples, a band of common folks, to stay loyal to Him and the vision of God's reign in the world. He commissions them as apostles called to be with Him and sent out to imitate His way of powerlessness in proclaiming the reign of God. And this proclamation does not just aim to provide a way into eternal life, but to expose and disarm the powers holding people hostage.

When Mark accounted Jesus ascent to the mountain, he is not a stranger to the image of brewing revolution. The ruling spirits of this world scheme to carry out plans to kill, steal, and destroy. These are the demons that take humanity captive. These are the same demons Jesus confronts and banishes all throughout his ministry, as we have seen in the previous passages in Mark's account. Jesus is bringing a revolution far different from seizing power and control. He is bringing in a grand reversal, restoring and renewing God's relationship with His people.

The reign of God calls people to lay down their lives, not to be subdued by an oppressive king, but to see the invitation for a new way of life. Those Jesus wanted with Him are called to relinquish any desire to seize power. Intimacy with Him means to understand that life is meant to be lived in the service of others.

This call seemed to be inefficient according to the economy of efficiency that this present world knows. But the call still stands, if we claim to be followers of Christ, we must live as He lived. As we are sent out to proclaim God's reign, we are sharing in His authority in banishing demons. In exposing and disarming the works of the evil one, our method should be marked by compassion, walking with the weak and extending grace to the needy ■

PRAYER
at the Chapel

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Weeknight Prayer Gatherings
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

ON THE COVER: *The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?—Psalm 27:1 (unsplash.com).*



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0078 to 80, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📍 Greenhills Christian Fellowship

How may we
SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **26/27 October 2019**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.