



November 15, 2011 - Psalm 27:8

Hi Everyone,

The days are ticking by, we are headed into the holidays soon, and we all know that means we are on our way to the end of the year as well. Are you like me? All of the sudden does it feel like the time is speeding up and life is, too? It sure can get crazy, but the Word of God can give us that sure foundation to stand upon in the midst of the chaos. This week I recorded some teaching about the power of God's Word and I have once again been renewed to remember the strong foundation I have to stand upon. Remembering this and also knowing life is going to get crazy as we move toward the end of the year, I am going to make sure my feet are established in His Word. Memorizing it is just one more discipline that helps me do that. So let me encourage you too, as the days get busy, don't let it lapse... keep up with your verses and make God's Word a priority. You will be glad for the strong foundation you are standing upon. Let's keep moving on in Psalm 27.

In the NASB, Psalm 27:8 reads:

**"When Thou didst say, 'Seek My face,'
my heart said to Thee, 'Thy face O Lord I shall seek' "**

I meditated on verse 8 for quite a while before I saw what I will share with you. Sometimes I can just be slow in getting it... I am just saying. But once I did, it is clear as day! Let me explain: Verse 8 holds a strong theme of obedience. In this verse, God told David to do something and David had a choice: obey or disobey. In that light, I want to offer some thoughts about obeying God in the midst of purposing to wait upon Him and trust Him.

We don't earn God's blessings by obeying Him.

First, I believe we always need to approach God against a backdrop of grace. Let's face it, the only reason we can even have a relationship with God is based on His grace. However, as we

are trusting God to move or deliver or answer, it can be easy to fall into the trap of thinking, "If I do this, then God will do that." That is faulty thinking. We can't force the hand of God and we shouldn't try. Even when we do some really Godly things, we cannot earn God's favor. We can never measure up to our holy God. But, all that said, obeying God does position us to receive His blessings. David positioned himself right under the fountain of God's blessings. God told him to seek His face and David said, "You got it!" Understanding this dynamic of not being able to earn God's favor but positioning ourselves for it can be confusing. But, each time we obey God, I believe we gain greater and greater understanding. We see the benefits of obeying God. And as we do, the Holy Spirit reveals the blessings of simple, pure obedience to God's voice.

We should obey what God says even if it doesn't make sense to us.

We have to consider David's situation; he was in a literal battle. Verses 2 and 3 reveal that to us. And now God is saying, "**Seek My face.**" For David, who was on the run from Saul, that might have meant stopping and praying, stopping to offer a sacrifice to God, stopping to spend the day fasting and seeking God's face. We can't know exactly what that would have looked like, but you can be sure it would be hard to stop for anything when you are in the middle of a literal battleground. It seems to me that Psalm 27, up to this point, is a picture of David saying, "God I really trust You, I am looking up to You and waiting on You." And now in verse 8, God's direction to David is like God is saying, "Do you really trust Me or are you just saying that you do? Do you trust Me enough to stop and seek My face when you are in the midst of this battle?" I imagine God's direction to David did not make sense to him. Just like God's directions to us often don't make sense either. We can say all day, "I am trusting God; I am waiting upon God," but does our obedience to Him validate that? What about when God asks us to do something that doesn't make sense? When God challenges our own personal plan, it brings our trust in Him to a place of reality. Will we solidify our trust with obedience, or will we walk our own way?

We should be quick to obey.

When I memorized verse 8, I could almost hear David quickly responding to God, "Yes sir, that is exactly what I will do." Verse 8 actually reads, "**When Thou didst say, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to Thee, 'Thy face O Lord I shall seek.'**" David's response just seems to have a tone of quick and wholehearted obedience. I have often heard it said we should be quick to repent. In the same way I have become convinced we should be quick to obey God, too. Why? Well, quick obedience reveals we really do trust God and we really are waiting on Him. When we have to ask questions and wrestle with our own will, it reveals we are still not in a place of full surrender. I am all too familiar with those wrestling matches, but I long to be the believer who is quick to obey God's voice. What about you?

Waiting upon the Lord is looking up to Him with expectant hope... may we not just wait upon Him with our words, but in obedient action, too.

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