



October 4, 2011 - Psalm 27:2

Hi Everyone,

I pray you had a good week as you got started memorizing Psalm 27. I pray that you esteemed the Lord to His rightful place, therefore leaving no room for fear and dread. I don't know what has been going on in your world, but I personally have faced many new challenges this past week, places where I could easily have fallen into fear. I'll tell you more about it as we look at verse 2.

In the NASB Psalm 27:2 reads:

**"When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh,
my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell."**

In this verse, David is looking back as he talks to himself. It is almost like he is saying, "Remember when..." as he says, "**When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh.**" I believe he is remembering times when evil came against him. Although we can't know exactly what specific instance David is recalling as he says this, we know that throughout his life he faced evil and enemies of all kinds. When he was just a young boy, he had literal battles with a lion and a bear, as well as with Goliath, the giant warrior of the Philistine army. There were battles with his jealous brothers, with Saul and his armies, with warring nations when David was king, and even within his own household with Michal and Amnon and Absalom. Then of course there were the battles he fought within, the battles with sin and depression, with loneliness and shame. David was certainly well acquainted with battling enemies and evil.

But as he remembers, he recalls that "**they stumbled and fell.**" Fellowshiping with these memories reminds David that his adversaries and enemies did not win. They may have looked larger than life in the moment and put up a strong fight, but ultimately, "**they stumbled and fell.**"

I wonder what new challenge David was facing as he wrote Psalm 27. We don't know, but we do

see once again that there is power in looking up to recall the power of God in the face of our struggles. What new challenge are you facing today? What kind of evil is approaching your front door? What enemies seem to be lurking just around the corner of your life?

I mentioned earlier about my own challenges this past week. As I write this devotion, I am headed home on a plane from Los Angeles, CA, having spent several days there receiving some vision and training in some vulnerable and dangerous areas of ministry. I found myself on Skid Row in downtown LA serving the homeless and also going into adult entertainment clubs throughout Hollywood to minister to the dancers there. Both of these situations paved a clear pathway for evil and enemies to approach me. Of course there were the obvious ones that threatened my personal safety, but many others loomed larger than that. The evils of sexual immorality and poverty were much closer than they have ever been before and I was also confronted with the evil of my own selfish heart, paralyzing doubts and lack of confidence. Yes, evil and enemies have seemed quite familiar to me this past week.

But here is the thing, there is great power in remembering. Remembering what God has done before will give us the power to look up in the now! I saw this prove true in each of the vulnerable situations I found myself in this past week. Before each of these ministry opportunities, there was very focused worship and prayer, times of looking up and waiting on the Lord, remembering what He has done and gaining faith for what He is yet to do. I can tell you with praise that remembering made all the difference for me, for I, too, saw my enemies stumble and fall as I recalled His past faithfulness.

Waiting upon the Lord is looking up to Him with expectant hope... whatever is going in your world today, I encourage you to look up and remember God's faithfulness to you in past battles. I believe it will give you faith to trust Him for the ones today. As the weeks move on, you will see it makes a great difference for David, too.

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