

Confidence in the Lord

Psalms 27:13, 14

¹³ *[What, what would have become of me] had I not believed that I would see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living!* ¹⁴ *Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord.*

Imagine yourself to have been dining on the sorrows of the day! For breakfast, in front of you was a bowl of pessimism and a glass of frustration. For lunch, a sandwich of hopelessness and a cup of anxiety were brought to you. For dinner, there was an entrée of sadness served with a side dish of doubt, topped with a dessert of whipped disaster. How awful such would be! I have painted a desolate picture so as to make a hopeful point. The point is this—God is able to change the tide! Bear with me for a moment while I consider the 107th Psalm. If you have your bible, turn to it. There are forty-three verses showing how the God of mercy and loving kindness changes things—how he changes hopeless situations into blessed ones. But what am I telling you? You know these things already! You have seen it for yourselves! How many things has God brought you out of? He has delivered you from the winds of your own tornados? He has caused the waters of your self-caused floods to diminish in depth so that your head could be safely above the waters. He has delivered you out of the furnace created by your sins, and brought you into a land where the breezes are warm and the landscape is hopeful. You have compiled a record of these things in your spirit.

But be mindful, reader that one aim of Satan is to cloud that record in your minds. He will bring in a tsunami of crisis to wash away any remembrance of God's mercy and deliverance. And when all is done, what is left is a field of desolation where not even a single plant can be seen! Where is all the good that God has done in my life? It is still there. It is just the winds that Satan has stirred up has caused it to be relocated in your mind where you may seldom go, so you forget about the mercies and love of God. But God will settle the winds, taking out of them their strength, until they are once again quiet. What lies before you is all the evidence you need that God has not forgotten you in your troubles. What was made desolate by Satan has become a beautiful garden filled with flowers of every kind—each flower reminding you of all the times that God has brought you out of distress when you prayed and waited for him. You cannot count the number of times that you have looked back on things that at the time seemed unsurmountable but now they are like lambs lying under a tree in the evening sun, unthreatening.

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