

Three Tools for the Day of Trouble

Psalm 27:4-5 || *Pastor Tim Lien* || 19 April 2020

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is your best time of day, when you have the most energy and focus?

Worship: Psalm 27:1, 13-14 (*Read aloud three times, spend time in reflection listening for God's invitation to you.*)

Sermon Summary for Psalm 27:4-5

Our culture was no stranger to fear or anxiety before this pandemic showed up. But as we have navigated through the disease as well as the ramifications of doing battle with it, these fears have flourished. We need to equip ourselves to endure these hardships; we need a rock to stand firmly on when nothing else seems safe or secure. As followers of Christ, we can look to Psalm 27 for this assurance and for tools to help weather the storm:

Accepting Our Adoption – “That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” Adoption by the Almighty is the highest privilege the Gospel offers. There is no greater gift than to become a part of God’s family as His beloved children. *How does this help us in times of trouble?* Because of our adoption, whatever happens to us happens to our loving Father. Meaning we can turn to God when we feel shrouded in darkness – calling for Him to love us through hardship and to help us endure – which He will assuredly do.

Knowing Our Father – “To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.” There is a vast difference between knowing God and knowing things about Him. We can’t study our way into intimacy; that’s not how any relationship works. Depth and enjoyment are found through experience, and there’s no better way to encounter God than through Jesus. *How does this help us in times of trouble?* Because no matter the pain or grief we may experience, we will always have access to our loving Father. When we are experiencing God, we are allowing His presence to infuse our hearts. Enjoying God is something we should embrace each day so we are prepared for darker times.

Knowing Our Siblings – “To inquire in His temple.” We cannot deeply know God without the shared experience of our fellow Christians. We gain so much in our appreciation and understanding of God when we gather in fellowship. *How does this help us in times of trouble?* We are called to support and love each other through our hardships. In difficult moments, we need our Christian family to remind us what we already know about God. And so we have hope, because the darkness cannot and will not consume us (Ps 27:13).

Discussion Questions (*It's better to wrestle deeply with a few good questions than to gloss over many.*)

- Accept Your Adoption: What does it mean to you that we have the same “last name” as God and are of the same household as sons and daughters?
 - In what ways are you comforted to know that whatever you experience your Father experiences?
 - Know Your Father: How will knowing God as Father help when we find ourselves in a time of trouble?
 - What steps can we take to get to know God better and enjoy Him more?
 - Know Your Siblings: Discuss the thought that our siblings give us knowledge about God/Jesus that we cannot get for ourselves. How have you experienced this?
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What Can We Be Praying For?

Here is a resource to pray for the church, the nation, and the world for the next 30 days: <https://pcaga.org/prayer/>.

Engage & Experience

Share something about your faith walk that could expand someone’s knowledge of who Jesus is and what He does.