

Bible Text New International Version	What does the psalm reveal about God and how we are to approach, address, and respond to God?
<p>Psalm 27 <i>Of David.</i></p> <p>¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?</p> <p>² When the wicked advance against me to devour^a me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.</p> <p>³ Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.</p> <p>⁴ One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.</p> <p>⁵ For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.</p> <p>⁶ Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.</p> <p>⁷ Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.</p> <p>⁸ My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. Or <i>slander</i></p>	

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<p>Psalm 27 (continued)</p> <p>⁹ Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.</p> <p>¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.</p> <p>¹¹ Teach me your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.</p> <p>¹² Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.</p> <p>¹³ I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.</p> <p>¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.</p>	

Psalm 88^[b]

A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah. For the director of music.

According to mahalath leannoth.^[c] A maskil^[d] of Heman the Ezrahite.

- 1 LORD, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.
- 2 May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.
- 3 I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.
- 4 I am counted among those who go
down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.
- 5 I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.
- 6 You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.
- 7 Your wrath lies heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.^[e]
- 8 You have taken from me my closest friends
and have made me repulsive to them.
I am confined and cannot escape;
- 9 my eyes are dim with grief.
I call to you, LORD, every day;
I spread out my hands to you.
- 10 Do you show your wonders to the dead?
Do their spirits rise up and praise you? *(continued)*

b. In Hebrew texts 88:1-18 is numbered 88:2-19.

c. Possibly a tune, "The Suffering of Affliction"

d. Probably a literary or musical term

e. The Hebrew has *Selah* (a word of uncertain meaning) here and at the end of verse 10.

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<p>Psalm 88 (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction^f?</p> <p>¹² Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?</p> <p>¹³ But I cry to you for help, LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you.</p> <p>¹⁴ Why, LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?</p> <p>¹⁵ From my youth I have suffered and been close to death; I have borne your terrors and am in despair.</p> <p>¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me.</p> <p>¹⁷ All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me.</p> <p>¹⁸ You have taken from me friend and neighbor— darkness is my closest friend.</p> <p>f. Hebrew <i>Abaddon</i></p>	

Reflections

David asked God for only one thing—to live with Him in His house forever. If you could ask only one thing from God, what would it be?

How have you received comfort after crying out to God during troubling times?

