

**Monday, May 4, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"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?"**  
*(Psalm 27: 1)*

In certain ways, we are taught not to compare ourselves with others. I should not compare myself to others in terms of my abilities or looks or intelligence. When I do so, I will either end up feeling superior or inferior to someone else. Neither feeling is helpful or healthy. And yet we do live in a world of comparisons. When we are in school, we are compared to one another by the grading system: "You got an 'A' on the test, while I got a 'C'." You graduated as valedictorian, while others did not. Even the work world is often based on comparison. If two people interview for the same job, only one will get the job based on a comparison of qualifications and personality.

In the Psalm verse above, David finds peace in life because of a comparison that he makes. He compares everything that he might be afraid of to God. He refers to God as the "stronghold" of his life. In other words, God is the great Immovable Force. And David has latched onto Him. This makes David immovable as well.

He says in the Psalm: "The Lord is the stronghold of my life; OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?" That's a rhetorical question. What David is saying is that, COMPARED to God, the thing that David might fear doesn't compare to God. God's power and authority is so great, that when it comes to the thing David is afraid of, that thing practically does not even exist. David is saying that, with God in His life, what do I have to be afraid of?

I need to be reminded of this fact every time I hear or read something new about Covid-19. "There WILL BE a vaccine." "No, there WON'T BE a vaccine." "It can mutate." "People are not practicing social-distancing." "It's going to come back, maybe in a bigger way." It's almost like that haunted house that I went through when I was a little kid. A monster was waiting to jump out and scare me around every corner. And this isn't just regarding Covid-19. Life was very unpredictable long before the coronavirus. Life has always been unpredictable, at least from our human perspective. There's not much in this world or this life that we can "hang our hat on." There might be a monster in the next room I enter.

But when my focus is on God, and when I COMPARE these scary things to God's love for me and to His "omnipotence," that is, His almighty power, it's as though these scary things don't even exist. "The Lord is the stronghold of my life; OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?" I can say to a virus, or to any other threatening situation in my life: "You are nothing. You hold no authority in my life. Not even a little bird will die unless God says it's ok!"

So, whatever it is that is threatening your peace in life, compare it to God and His love for you. And if you need help in understanding God's love for you, remember this Bible verse from Romans 5:8 – "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God's peace!  
Pastor Jim