

# GAZING AT THE BEAUTY OF GOD

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Through the many things we experience in life at present, there are numerous challenges that we contend with each day. After a year and 4 months of being in GCF South Metro, I did not anticipate that I would experience so much joy in serving, but along with it, much heartache, as well. I have experienced new beginnings and meeting new people, but at the same time also saying, "See you again", to others. There are so many things that overwhelm us and sometimes we drown in the wake of all these things. What are we to do when we go through these times?

In Psalm 27, King David tells the people that the Lord is his stronghold and refuge! God is his confidence amidst troubling times. He knows that God is someone who will shelter him through the tough times, even if others will not. That is a confidence that cannot be shaken even if, like in verse 3, when an army surrounded him, he remained confident still. In our struggles in life, sometimes our confidence gets shaken because of the numerous things that happen at the same time and sometimes we just want to stop and say "When will this end?". We do

not know when these things will end, but what we can learn from King David is that we can be confident that God will shelter us always. In verse 4, he shares how there is only one thing he will seek from God - that he will dwell in the house of the Lord and to gaze upon the beauty of God.

During those challenging times, do we have the same desire? Do we seek to gaze at the beauty of God when times are tough? I must admit that there are times I do not look to God first when I experience tough times. Because of that, there are moments when I really do not have any confidence whatsoever in how things will turn out for the good. But Psalm 27 is a good reminder for us that even if we cannot be confident, we can be confident in God because He is our stronghold and shelter even in those times when we don't have anyone else to turn to. God will always be our refuge and stronghold. We just need to continue to gaze upon the beauty of God even if it is hard to look up to God when things do not go well, even if during those times, we drown and get paralyzed with all that is happening.

I want to encourage us to seek God and gaze at His beauty. His beauty is that He is our stronghold and refuge, and that He is the sovereign God in control of all things. We may not know why these things happen to us, but we know for sure that God is still in control. That is when we find beauty in our trials.

When we know and remember that God is in control, that allows us to have confidence to persevere. King David calls on us that as we wait, we need to be strong and courageous. We wait for the Lord and His timing because as we trust in God and His sovereign plans, we can be sure that whatever is happening to us now, God has a purpose. Whatever that purpose may be, we trust in Him because His plan will always be far better than anything we can ever dream of for ourselves. That is who our God is and that is why we can trust that He is our stronghold! God bless everyone! My challenge for everyone is to keep on gazing at the beauty and majesty of God - He is our stronghold and refuge!✠