Psalm 27:-

"Fear him you saints and you will then have nothing else to fear."

It reads as though King David composed this psalm of confidence in the Lord God when faced with rebellion. Looking back at his history it would seem that most of the trouble after the death of King Saul came from his family! -see 2 Samuel chapter 3. Psalm 18 is in praise of his deliverance from Saul – see 2 Samuel chapter 22.
Psalm 27 may be connected to the revolt of David's son Absalom – 2 Samuel chapter 17.
Verses 7 -12 are a cry to the Lord for help when under pressure. However, it is still a psalm of confidence and trust in the Lord for His help when faced by difficulties – verses 13 – 14.

Verse 1:- The 'stronghold' is pictured as a hilltop fortress governed by the Lord God. In the book *"The Holy War"* John Bunyan describes the city of *"Mansoul"* as a safe stronghold until betrayed from within. Trust in the Lord God enables David to face the future in spite of his enemies.

Verses 2 – 3:- A statement of absolute confidence in the protection given by the Lord. Note that this includes verbal attacks so common now in messages on personal media!

Verses 4 – 6:- Of first importance for David and for us is to remain in the presence of the Lord – then, and only then will we have the confidence to stand against the enemy. Read Ephesians chapter 6, verses 10 – 18.

Verses 7 – 12:- Notice that in this prayer for the Lord's help, David 'seeks the face of the Lord' (verses 8 – 9; 'trusts the Lord to pick him up' (verse 10); 'seeks a level path' verse 11) and 'seeks the protection of the Lord against false witnesses' (verse 12).

Verses 13 – 14:- The Psalm closes in confidence although it may involve 'waiting'! Our timing may not be the Lord's timing!.

If you have not read *'The Holy War'* by John Bunyan it is worth dipping into! It is about the spiritual conflict between Shaddai and Diabolus for the city of Mansoul. The novel depicts the siege, capture, and recapture of Mansoul by Diabolus and his army, and the intervention of Shaddai's son Emmanuel to restore his rule. An allegory of the conversion, backsliding and restoration of the soul of man.

1) A Safe Stronghold Our God Is Still,
A Trusty Shield And Weapon;
He'll Help Us Clear From All The Ill
That Hath Us Now Overtaken.
The Ancient Prince Of Hell
Hath Risen With Purpose Fell;
Strong Mail Of Craft And Power
He Weareth In This Hour,
On Earth Is Not His Fellow.

2) With Force Of Arms We Nothing Can,
Full Soon Were We Down-Ridden;
But For Us Fights The Proper Man,
Whom God Himself Hath Bidden.
Ask Ye, Who Is This Same?
Christ Jesus Is His Name,
The Lord Sabaoth's Son;
He, And No Other One,
Shall Conquer In The Battle.

3) And Were This World All Devils Over,
And Watching To Devour Us,
We Lay It Not To Heart So Sore;
Not They Can Overpower Us.
And Let The Prince Of Ill
Look Grim As Ever He Will,
He Harms Us Not A Whit:
For Why? His Doom Is Writ;
A Word Shall Quickly Slay Him.

4) God's Word, For All Their Craft And Force,
One Moment Will Not Linger,
But, Spite Of Hell, Shall Have Its Course;
'Tis Written By His Finger.
And Though They Take Our Life,
Goods, Honour, Children, Wife,
Yet Is Their Profit Small;
These Things Shall Vanish All,
The City Of God Remaineth.

Martin Luther 1529 Translated by Thomas Carlyle 1831

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