



Be of Good Courage
Biblical verses to
encourage Christians
through their pressure
and problems.

Written by Derek Rous

Produced by
Prayer for Israel.



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Psalm 27 begins with *“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”* It goes on in verse 5 to say *“For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His pavilion – in the secret place of His tabernacle...He shall set me high up on a rock.”* What it is saying is that despite all the pressures, problems and powers that would seek our destruction, we are safe hidden in that secret place where He dwells in the secret place of His tabernacle - that Rock *“that is higher than I.”*

No doubt aware of this Psalm, the apostle Paul also reminded the believers at Rome that nothing in heaven or on earth can *“separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* These believers were facing an awful prospect of tribulation and persecution that they never thought would happen to them and they needed the comfort of the Lord's presence with them. He did not let them down and He won't let you down either. I wonder if we took a poll amongst prayer partners, how many would say – yes, that's me! It's really difficult to be a faithful Christian in the UK in these days.

The Bible is true - *“Justice is turned back and righteousness stands far off; for truth is fallen in the street ...and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.”* Isa 59:14 But we cannot escape the fact that at the moment so many are facing far more terrible persecution and suffering in countries like Nigeria, Syria, Egypt and a host of other

Islamic countries or in North Korea. Ps 11:3 says *“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”* What indeed? In countries that have been so blessed to taste the benefits of a Judeo-Christian inheritance, what can one do?

I suggest three things.

- (1) Hold fast to the Lord, regularly read and meditate on His Word
- (2) Be diligent and faithful in prayer and
- (3) Keep your lamps trimmed (removing any impurity or anything that dulls the light) so that in all these ways you are a faithful witness to His amazing grace. But maybe a fourth thing to remember which was the thing Paul encouraged the Corinthian Church in 1 Co 16:13 *“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong;”* the Ephesian Church in Eph 6:10 *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”* And to Timothy in 2 Tim 2:1 *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”*

We need courage these days to stand up or speak out for truth and righteousness, even in churches. It's not just the topic of Israel that marks you out; it's all matters where the Bible has clear guidance. It's one thing to try and convince the world of God's purposes and plans but today it's in the Church where we have our greatest challenge but also greatest responsibility. If the Lord's people are not pure and holy, how can we expect the world to understand what righteousness and justice are about? So, take

courage and whatever the Lord tells you to do, "*...do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*" Col 3:23

Derek Rous

