

A Better Relationship with Jesus: Seeking With Your Heart

Psalm 27:5-8

November 2, 2025

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When I'm alone with Jesus I want to hear His voice and see His face. When I seek out a quiet place to be alone with Jesus, I want to hear His voice and see His face. When I seek to remove all distractions in my quiet time with Jesus, I want to hear His voice and see His face.

As I pray thoughts come to mind. They distract my conversation. They keep me from listening. But, I find that there is something at fault within me. I realize that I am holding onto something. I discover that it distracts from seeing and hearing Jesus. I know that I am that thing.

For the Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek." Psalm 27:5-8 (ESV)

Have you ever thought of looking Jesus in the eye? Looking someone in the eye has a special meaning. It is often the test if someone is telling the truth, being honest. Most people can't tell a lie without looking away. Looking someone in the eye means we're not only being honest, but we have an open relationship. We don't have open relationships with just anyone. Most of us keep our relationships closed. That is why we don't reveal a lot about ourselves with just anyone. We don't open up our lives for all the world see. We keep our lives closed, revealing only what we want others to know.

Everybody's got secrets they would rather keep to themselves. We've done some things in the past that no one needs to know. We may have acted childish, foolish or embarrassing. Our lives don't need to be an open book for all the world to see. If you went bungee jumping and were scared to death, I don't need to know. If you were a clown in the traveling circus, I don't need to know. If you were once a bartender, I don't need to know. If you were a roller derby queen, that's none of my business. If you played varsity volleyball and lost every game, that's nobody's business. If you wrecked your car ten times, I don't want to know.

What you once did, or once were, isn't any of my business. But, just remember you can't hide your past, your problems, your victories and defeats from Jesus. He already knows all about your life.

David, the writer of the psalm is seeking an honest, open and intimate relationship the Lord. He has lived part of his life on the run from a man named King Saul. He tried to kill David. David made mistakes in his marriage. He was unfaithful to his wife. He killed people in battle. He arranged for people to be killed.

David longs for an honest relationship. His children have tried to take away His crown and His throne. He has watched his adversaries claim victories. David wants to be open about his successes and failures. He has been able to look people in the eye and speak the truth.

David desires this kind of intimacy with God. The desire of his heart is to be near God. So he seeks the Lord with all of his heart. He empties his heart before the Lord. Nothing in his life goes unconfessed with the Lord. Nothing in his life is unspoken with the Lord. His pain and suffering are laid down before God. His disappointments, frustration, and anger are laid bare before the Lord. Every imaginable situation in his life is spoken to the Lord. He empties his heart to the Lord. He unloads his soul to the Lord. He is more intimate in sharing with the Lord than he is even with his closest family and friends.

For the Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. Psalm 27:5 (ESV)

It is not in our nature to share personal issues even with Jesus. David was in fear for his life. He knew that on his own there was no safe place. His enemies were real. They were warriors hardened by battle. They wore helmets and breastplates. They carried knives and swords. His enemies had spears and clubs, bows and arrows.

David was aware that if he hide behind a tree, he would be found. The mountains, the forest, the caves, and the wilderness would not keep him safe. No matter what town or city he entered he would not be safe.

But, look where God would protect him. God would be his shelter. God would cover him in His tent. God would lift him up on a rock.

David's confidence, faith, trust in the Lord is a result of their relationship. Along with being his salvation the Lord is his most trusted companion. David was in the presence of the Lord, and he knew it. David is able to look the Lord in the eye and believe everything the Lord says.

An honest, open, intimate relationship is hard to find. Money and possessions don't provide this confidence and faith. Power and influence can't provide this trust. Being able to look the Lord in the eye is fundamental. David was not the only child of God who could look the Lord in the eye. The faithful prophets had this same honest, open, intimate relationship with their Creator and their Savior. It is a gift from the Lord to be this intimate with God.

The apostles of Jesus, including Paul, were in an intimate relationship with the Creator and Savior of the world. Of course the disciples looked Jesus in the eye. They walked this earth together. But, many people walked the same ground as Jesus and didn't look him in the eye. They were closed, dishonest, and lacked faith in Him.

David never saw the Lord as the disciples did. We can't see the Lord as the disciples did. But like David we can see the Lord eye to eye. We can trust Him, we can have faith in Him. We can be honest, open, and intimate with our Savior and Lord.

In an honest, open, intimate relationship we are safe and protected. We have the assurance that He will hide us in God's shelter. We have confidence that God will cover us with His tent. We have the

certainty that the Lord will lift us up on a rock. There is no one earth like Jesus. There is no one with whom we can look in the eye and discover the intimacy like we can with Jesus.

Now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! Psalm 27:6–7 (ESV)

When we are in an intimate relationship with Jesus there is a new joy in our hearts. David makes these proclamations as if they are happening at the very moment. David is being pursued by enemies that want him destroyed. Yet, he is confident, his faith could not be more sure, his trust could not be more faithful. He sees the Lord not only protecting him, but saving him.

David sees himself in the Temple of the Lord. He sees himself in God's throne room. He knows that he is in the presence of the Lord. For him it is as if he looking Jesus in the eye. While trouble is all around him, he is looking at the Lord. While the enemy bears down upon him, he is looking at the Lord. While his life is in peril, he is looking at the Lord. Being in the Lord's presence brings him joy. Looking God in the eye brings joy to his heart. Seeing the Lord face to face puts joy in his soul.

This is unreasonable and irrational. No one can see God. No one can look God in the eye. No one can be face to face with God. But, David did and we can too.

God is radiant and majestic beyond human understanding. He is magnificent and utterly different than any human experience. The Word of God says the Lord is holy. All those who have tried and failed to look upon the Lord have died.

David sees the Lord. David is looking God in the eye. David is face to face with God. He is filled with a joy that is overflowing. His heart is about to burst through his mouth and over his lips. This joy is in the midst of trouble as his enemies seek his life.

You and I can also see the Lord, look Him in the eye, and be face to face. You and I can also experience the joy of Lord. We can be filled to overflowing.

If you aren't experiencing the joy of the Lord I have three things to tell you. First, the Lord is present. He is with us. He is dwelling within us. He has made His home among us. The moment you gave your life to Jesus, you were forgiven and the Holy Spirit of God poured into you. You are a temple of God, an abiding place for the Lord. All that is in Christ Jesus, our Savior, is given to you. You have hope, peace, power, and joy of the Lord.

Second, if you aren't experiencing the joy of Lord you aren't looking at Jesus. Your eyes, your mind, your heart, your body, your spirit are tuned into something other than Jesus. I know this from personal experience. Your focus is on your enemies, your troubles, your problems. Your attention is on yourself and how all of these things are impacting you. Your life is lacking joy, but filled with despair, discouragement, and doom.

Third, if you aren't experiencing the joy of Lord you are holding to tight to your own thoughts, ideas, and agenda. I've been there and I do that. You still believe you can find a hiding place from your enemies. You still think you have the wisdom to outsmart the trouble on your path. You still have the attitude that you are sufficient to handle your problems.

You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.” Psalm 27:8 (ESV)

Since He already knows everything, be honest with Jesus. Seeking to be honest and open with Jesus begins with saying He is Lord of all life. If you aren't drawing close to Jesus, to know that He is with you, it's your fault. Sounds strange in this day and age when nobody has to take the blame. If you can't see Jesus face to face, in His eye, it's your fault. You are either being selfish – sin. You are trying to handle life on your own – unfaithfulness. You are still on your path – disobedience. You are allowing any of the emotions of sad, mad, bad, and glad to control your life.

Now, let me say this, you are not alone. You are not the only person who is selfish, unfaithful, and disobedient, controlled by your emotions. There are times in my life that I don't have the joy of the Lord. In those moments I can't see Jesus. I'm not face to face with Him. It's because I'm not seeking Him. I'm doing my own thing. I'm going my own way. I might cry out to the Lord. I might get mad at the Lord. I might even say the right words. I'm not being honest with Jesus. I'm operating from my agenda, my thoughts, my ideas.

Jesus knows this. Jesus knows what is in my heart. Jesus knows my soul and my spirit. Jesus knows when I have not surrendered to Him. There is a direct connection between my inability to see Jesus and my selfishness. There is also a direct connection between seeing Jesus face to face and confession.

So, when my enemies come against, I have to be honest with Jesus. When my life is in peril I have to be honest with Jesus. When I view the world as coming after me, I have to be honest with Jesus. The same is true for all of us. Jesus knows everything about you. There are no secrets in your life. There is no hidden agenda, Jesus already knows.

To be honest with Jesus is first to admit that you aren't in control, in charge, of God. Until we can say to Jesus, you are God and I am not there will be no joy in your life, you will not be able to see Jesus face to face. But, when you admit that Jesus is Lord of all life, that He is the Savior of your soul, you will see Jesus, you will experience joy. You will experience hope and peace. You will have the power to withstand whatever is happening. You will find yourself gazing upon the wonder and beauty, the glory and magnificence of Jesus.

Be honest with Jesus.