



# Bible Reading and Words of Encouragement

**Elder Carvel Bennett**

*Interim Director, Christian Education and  
The Center For Afrikan Biblical Studies @ First Afrikan Church*

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Psalm 27:1-4

This Psalm, attributed to David, is seen by many scholars as a literary work comprising two or more parts. The first part vs. 1-6 seem confident and full of praise, vs 7-12 lament and uncertainty and vs 13-14, back to praise, perseverance, hope and faith. The psalmist first expresses complete trust and confidence in his God; Then presents a petition for deliverance from his enemies; and finally, invites the reader or singer of the psalm to wait for God to act.

We are not sure what the different situations were that led to this disjointedness in the psalm, or if it can even be attributed to David alone, but what we do recognize is the sense confidence in the midst of fear, despair, uncertainty and helplessness.

The Psalmist did not fear because – God was his light, his salvation, his strength.

The Psalmist was not afraid because – God ensured that all his enemies (the wicked) were subdued.

The one thing the Psalmist desired most, vs 4, was “to dwell in the house of the Lord”.

This past Resurrection Sunday as many religious communities contemplated how to worship (to worship together or to continue obeying ‘social distancing’ and ‘stay at home’ rules), verse 4 resonated with me. Some pastors and their congregations were fined for breaking these rules. To them worshipping together in a physical place, their house of worship, was their expression of faith.

I argue that the Psalmist was not suggesting that we remain in a physical place – the house of the Lord, his temple, his dwelling, his tabernacle, but rather communing with the one who resides in the tabernacle – the Lord, the Creator of the universe, Chukwu the Great Spirit. “It was not the earthly temple itself that charmed David but rather the beauty of the Lord that was found at the temple in a special way.” (Boice)

I think the Psalmist is calling us to “find the beauty of the Lord” in such a time as this. We are being challenged to make any old house, anywhere we find ourselves to be the house of the Lord. Most importantly, I think we are being challenged to express and live out the beauty of the lord that we found in the house of the Lord i.e. not to be afraid, not to fear, but remain confident, full of praise, persevere, giving, caring, faithful, prayerful and hopeful.