

HOPE WHEN SMOKE GETS IN OUR EYES

Scripture: Psalm 27

December 8, 2020

Message:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Should I fear anyone? The Lord is a fortress protecting my life. Should I be frightened of anything?

But I have sure faith that I will experience the Lord's goodness in the land of the living! Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!

Psalm 27:1-2; 13-14 (CEB)

As a former volunteer firefighter, I know that crawling around a burning building can be very dark and disorienting. You're wearing a heavy air pack on your back and, even with the flames burning around you, the thick smoke makes it nearly impossible to see what obstacles might be in your way. In the "heat of the battle," once you get turned around or disoriented, you can quickly start to feel uncertain, fearful or alone. You always hope that you can find the light from your partner's helmet to guide you or the glow from a window or door to put you back on the right track. That's when you know you're not alone.

God tells us today that He is our light and our salvation! We are not alone with him! When we are in the midst of the fires in our lives, He will protect and comfort us if we put our hopes and our fears in Him. No matter how heavy the burdens we might carry this Advent season, he will be the fortress safeguarding our lives.

Just like the smoke from a fire, life can turn us around, and negative situations can blind us from seeing what, and who, is right in front of us, but God says that we don't have to fear the obstacles in our way. He will save, protect and help us deal with the fires of our lives if we keep our eyes on His light. We need to focus on His saving grace each and every day and let that spirit of the season show in our service to others!

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, during this 2nd week of Advent, prepare our hearts to receive the hope of the season. Give us the anticipation of Your light and Your salvation to get us through life's smoke and flames. We ask all of this in Your precious name. Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

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