

Sunday 15 August 2021: David describes God as a Light or lamp (Psalm 18:28)

Perhaps you know the song that the Liverpool Football Club supporters sing: 'You'll never walk alone'? They have changed the words, but originally the line went: *'You'll never walk alone if you walk with God'.*

David, the writer of the Psalms would have preferred the original version. He must often have been alone especially when he was a shepherd boy. His job was to stay with his sheep and protect them all the time, day and night. So at night he would build up a fire to cook his supper and to drive off the wild animals. But it also provide a little bit of light for him.

In one way it was wonderful that there was no other light around. David would have been able to see hundreds of stars more clearly than we ever do. And as he looked up, he was filled with amazement that God made all of these.

But on the other hand the darkness must have been scary, especially when he heard noises or when the wind blew loudly.

Perhaps it was at night time then that David began to picture God as his 'Light'. As he stumbled around alone in the dark, he realized that this was just a picture of how he stumbled around in his life if he didn't ask God to be with him. He realized that he was being silly not to ask God to stay near him. Perhaps he began to think of God as being like a fire – a great bonfire of light! He could trust God's light to show him the way and to keep him from making wrong decisions and doing wrong things. God would light up the right path for him through all the problems of life.

The more he thought about this, the more he used words like these in his songs and poems:

The Lord is my light (Psalm 27:1)

It is you who light my lamp ... [who] lights up my darkness (Psalm 18: 28)

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil (I am not afraid) Psalm 23:4

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105)

We know how dark it is when we have load shedding, but we don't have to be afraid of the darkness. David's words remind us that we also don't have to be afraid of the darkness of sadness and pain. If we ask him to be there, God will be beside us, lighting up our way – just as he did for David. Our world doesn't have to be scary or sad or dark or lonely. God will be our light.