TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

November 1, 2026

Anchored in the Storm
Assurance in the Psalms

Confidence in the Light
(4 of 8)

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Before you begin discussing Psalm 27, take a listen to this song based on it!

Psalm 27 song

Observation — What does it say?

1. In v. 1, David declares that Yahweh is his "light"—which is a figure for just about everything positive. In the following passages, with what is light associated — and contrasted?
   - Psalm 36:9, contrasted with John 12:35.
   - Psalm 43:3, contrasted with Colossians 1:13-14.
   - Psalm 97:11, contrasted with Matthew 4:16.
   - Isaiah 5:20, contrasted with John 3:19–21.

2. According to v. 1-3 & 7-12, David clearly is currently still surrounded by dangers, but what does he seem to express in v. 4-6?

   Why go back and forth between these ideas?

3. David is surrounded by dangers (v. 1-3), but he knows that singleness of purpose is the solution. According to v. 4, what is the one thing David wants when he is harassed by danger on every side?

Interpretation — What does it mean?

4. In the midst of danger, the one thing David wants is to dwell in God's presence —"beholding and inquiring" (v. 4b). Isn't that a bit, well, impractical?

5. The one thing David wants is to dwell in God's presence — but according to v. 4a, is that something that we simply receive from God or something that we expend effort to obtain? Explain.

6. In v. 1-13, the pronouns are first person ("I", "me", "my"), but in v. 14, who's speaking?! What are the options?

Application — What do I do with this?

7. The Bible says, "When surrounded by danger, seek God single-heartedly." The world says, "God helps those who help themselves." Honestly, which instruction do you most often follow?

8. Back to the question of the apparent shift of speaker in v. 14 (v. 1-13 had been first person —"I", "me", "my"—but now v. 14 says "let your heart take courage and hope in Yahweh"). Reflect on these three possibilities:
   - What if David is addressing others going through trials?
   - What if David is counseling himself, encouraging himself?
   - What if Yahweh is responding to David's thoughts in v. 1-13?

9. David both prayed for and sought God's beautiful presence. When you're surrounded by troubles...
   - Which do you want more — relief or God's beautiful presence?
   - When seeking God's beautiful presence amid difficulty, are you more inclined simply to ask God to give it or to proactively do what you can to obtain it? Tell us about that.
   - What can you do to better reflect David's balance in asking and seeking?

Sermon Summary

When God is our light, salvation, and stronghold, we can face life's uncertainties with courage, worship, and hope. David writes Psalm 27 in a season of danger and uncertainty. Enemies surround him. The threats are real. Yet throughout this psalm, David speaks with remarkable confidence because he knows where his light comes from. Psalm 27 teaches us that courage is not the absence of danger; it is confidence in the presence of God despite the danger. We all entertain fears from time to time. Courage is found in knowing the God who has the answers and who holds our future.

I. Trust God's Presence More Than Your Fears (27:1–6)
David says — "God is My Light, God is My Salvation, God is My Stronghold." David's confidence is not rooted in favorable circumstances, but in God's character. David's courage is not grounded in the absence of danger, but in the presence of God. The center of this section is found in verses 4 and 5, where David says, "The One Thing…". David doesn't ask for victory first. He doesn't ask for safety first. He asks for God's presence. When God's presence becomes our greatest treasure — when it becomes our ultimate thing, fear begins to lose its grip.

II. Seek God's Face When Your Heart Feels Weak (27:7–12)
In this section, the tone changes dramatically. The confident declarations of verses 1–6 become earnest prayers. Verse 7 reminds us that faith is not pretending everything is fine. That is fantasy, not faith. Faith brings every burden, every fear, every obstacle honestly before God. The heart of this section is found in verse 8. God initiates. David responds. This is the essence of worship.

David knows God's faithfulness, yet he still wrestles with feelings of abandonment. The psalms teach us that honest prayer is not unbelief. Honest prayer is faith refusing to run anywhere else but to God. God is not threatened by our fears or our failures. He welcomes our cries. He wants us to draw near to Him in prayer. In verses 11-12, David asks for God's direction and protection from his enemies. The emphasis is not merely on escaping trouble, but on remaining faithful to God while under pressure.

III. Wait for God's Deliverance with Hope (27:13–14)
The psalm concludes with one of the Bible's greatest statements of faith:

13 "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!"

David does not know when or how God will act, but he does know that God is good. His hope rests in God's character. It seems to me that much of God's work occurs beneath the surface, behind the scenes, before it becomes visible. God is often working in ways that we cannot yet see. Become convinced that waiting is not passive resignation. Waiting is active trust. Psalm 27 reminds us that God's delays are not indications of God's absence. They are opportunities to choose trust over fear.

In closing I want to remind you that when darkness fills a room, the answer is not greater effort. The answer is more light.

This week, if fear arises:

- Remember who God is: He is your light, your salvation and your stronghold.
- Seek His face.
- Wait for His timing.

Remember, the believer's confidence is not found in the absence of trouble, but in the presence of God.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

David experienced dangers throughout his life. We don't know exactly what danger inspired Psalm 27, but six possibilities follow. Each day you will explore a dangerous situation David faced. What do you learn about the dangers David faced, the ways he responded, and the importance of trusting the Lord in times of crisis?

Monday — David Faces Goliath

Read: 1 Samuel 17:32–50

1. What made Goliath such a formidable opponent (vv. 4–11)?
2. What gave David confidence to face Goliath (vv. 34–37, 45–47)?
3. How did David defeat Goliath (vv. 48–50)?

Tuesday — David Flees from Saul

Read: 1 Samuel 19:9–18

1. What did Saul attempt to do to David, and how did David escape (vv. 9–10)?
2. What did Michal do to help David get away (vv. 11–17)?
3. What does this account reveal about the danger David faced even within the king's household?

Wednesday — David Is Trapped by the Philistines

Read: 1 Samuel 21:10–15

1. Why was David in danger when he went to Gath (vv. 10–12)?
2. How did David respond when he realized his life was threatened (v. 13)?
3. How did his behavior lead Achish to dismiss him (vv. 14–15)

Thursday — David and His Men Find Ziklag Burned

Read: 1 Samuel 30:1–8

1. What terrible situation did David and his men discover when they returned to Ziklag (vv. 1–3)?
2. How did David and his men respond to their grief, and why was David in additional danger (vv. 4–6)?
3. What did David do to seek the Lord's direction (vv. 7–8)?

Friday — David Faces His Son Absalom's Rebellion

Read: 2 Samuel 15:13–17, 30; 17:1–4

1. What did David learn about Absalom's rebellion, and how did he respond (15:13–17)?
2. What expressions of grief and humility accompanied David's flight from Jerusalem (15:30)?
3. What did Ahithophel propose to do to David, and what was the intended outcome (17:1–4)?

Saturday — David Takes a Census and Faces Judgment

Read: 2 Samuel 24:10–17

1. What did David recognize after he had numbered the people (v. 10)?
2. What three forms of judgment did Gad present to David, and which did David choose (vv. 11–14)?
3. How did David respond when he saw the angel striking the people, and what did he ask God to do (vv. 16–17)?