TALKINGPOINTS
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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 8, 2026

Anchored in the Storm
Assurance in the Psalms

Keeping Focused
(5 of 8)

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation — What does it say?

1. The first half of Psalm 16 unfolds features of the faithful servant of God. As you read v. 1-6, what do you learn about the faithful servant's...
   - ...security? (see v. 1)
   - ...well-being? (see v. 2)
   - ...companions? (see v. 3)
   - ...worship? (see v. 4)
   - ...ambitions? (see v. 5-6)

2. The second half of Psalm 16 unfolds features of our faithful Lord. As you read v. 7-11, what does it teach us about the following blessings?
   - guidance (see v. 7)
   - stability (see v. 8)
   - resurrection (see v. 9-10)
   - endless bliss (see v. 11)

Interpretation — What does it mean?

3. The blessings described in v. 7-11 are what David calls his "beautiful inheritance" (v. 6b). What's "beautiful" about guidance? About stability? About resurrection? About endless bliss?

4. Which aspects of our "beautiful inheritance" are for now, in this life? Which are for the hereafter?

Application — What do I do with this?

5. How faithful are you as God's servant? Compare yourself to what you discovered in v. 1-6. In which of those five features are you doing fairly well? In which do you most need improvement?

6. How important is your "beautiful inheritance" to you? Which of those blessings do you think about on a daily basis? Which ones do you rarely think of? Why do you think that is?

Sermon Summary

Psalm 16

1. Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge.
2. I said to the Lord, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you."
3. The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them!
4. Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods. I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood or even speak the names of their gods.
5. Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine.
6. The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!
7. I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.
8. I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.
9. No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety.
10. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.
11. You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

What I would like to do today, is focus on verse 11, more specifically the last phrase: *"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the **pleasures of living with you forever."***

My translation of verse 11 — Life is being in His presence. Being in His presence is sweet, total victory over death for an endless amount of time with God.

Rock Climbing Symbolism:
The summit - the goal God has placed before us - sanctification.
The rock - challenges and circumstances we face as we go through life.
The next hand hold - the next decision or act of obedience we must take.
The harness - the stability God places in our lives as we ascend (church family).
The rope - prayer and scripture study: our connection to Christ.
The belayer - Jesus Christ Himself.
The route - the process of sanctification.

The summit isn't simply a goal we invent for ourselves; God's plan for our life takes us to the summit, and Jesus and the Holy Spirit guide us along the way. The destination ultimately leads to being perfectly holy in His presence forever: Heaven.

We must be intentional in our daily walk with Christ. We have a "bent" toward sin, and it's so easy to give in. Daily devotionals and a constant, focused prayer life are what is needed. ***When you are not deliberately walking with Christ, you will walk with something else. When you are not listening to the Holy Spirit, you will listen to something else (Heb. 2:1).***

Things That Make Us Lose Our Focus

1. Distractions of the world - Psalm 16:4 - pressures of conforming to society or temporary pleasures (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4).
2. Self-sufficiency - Psalm 16:7 - thinking you can do it all by yourself. You already know everything you need to know (1 Cor 10:12; Prov 16:17-19; Deut 8:1).
3. Worry - Psalm 16:8 - continuing to ruminate on concerns (Mark 4:18-19; Matt. 6:25; 31-33; 1 Peter 5:7).
4. Foolish Friends - Psalm 16:3 - Who are you listening to while you decide your next move? (Psalm 26:4-5; Proverbs 13:20)

What are things that keep us focused on God?

1. Prayer - 1 Thes. 5:17; Col. 4:2
2. Studying Scripture - Heb. 4:12; Psalm 119:105 (biblememproject.com)
3. Church family or community group - 1 Corinthians 12:25-26; Heb. 10:24-25

Remember, the life of a Christian is being in His presence. "Being in His presence is sweet, total victory over death for an endless amount of time with God." Stay focused on every move to attain the goal of your life route.

Application Challenge:

1. Prayer life - I echo Pastor Doug and encourage you to spend at least 10 minutes of solid, focused prayer each day.
2. Scripture Study - Daily devotions, scripture memory, group Bible studies
3. Relationships - Get in a small group, encourage your small group in prayer and scripture study. Build those horizontal relationships with other Christians.
4. Service - Find a place to serve the church.

All of these areas keep you focused on the path of sanctification, growing closer to the Lord every day.

Notes

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

Psalm 16 takes less than 90 seconds to read — but its blessings last for an eternity! Each day this week, read Psalm 16 aloud, and then enjoy digging deeper into these questions...

Monday — Read Psalm 16 aloud, and then...

- In v. 1, David identifies himself as a "refugee." Who, and how secure, is David's refuge?
- What does Psalm 121:5-8 add to the picture?
- Is God your refuge? How do you know?
- How confident are you that he will "keep" you? Why do you think that?

Tuesday — Read Psalm 16 aloud, and then...

- In v. 2, David does not say that Yahweh is the source of his well-being, but that Yahweh himself is his well-being. What do you think that looks like in moment-to-moment living?
- What does Psalm 73:25–28 add to the picture?
- Is Yahweh himself your well-being? If so, in what ways?
- Is Yahweh himself good enough to be your "good?" Why or why not?

Wednesday — Read Psalm 16 aloud, and then...

- David describes the clear choice (v. 3) and the clean break (v. 4) he's made. What are they?
- What's the evidence that you've made a clean break from worshiping anything but Yahweh?
- Have you made a clear choice to delight in godly fellowship only? Explain.
- What changes do you need to make in your value-system?

Thursday — Read Psalm 16 aloud, and then...

- David belonged to the tribe of Judah (see 1 Chronicles 2:3–15, especially verses 10–15). When the tribes of Israel entered the land, they each received an inheritance. Find Judah's territory on a biblical map.
- But which tribe didn't receive a land inheritance (see Deuteronomy 10:8 & 18:1-2)?
- So, what is the significance of the fact that David prefers the priestly inheritance to a geographical one (see v. 5-6)?
- How gladly would you give up all of your earthly possessions in order to have Jesus?

Friday — Read Psalm 16 aloud, and then...

- What do you think it means that David made Yahweh his "right hand man" (v. 8)?
- According to v. 7-8, what blessings come when Yahweh is your counselor?
- Have you made God your "right hand man?" How do you know?
- To what degree are you experiencing the blessings of having God as your counselor?

Saturday — Read Psalm 16 aloud, and then...

- The heart refers to the inner, immaterial part of you, while the flesh, obviously, is your body. According to v. 9-11, what spiritual (inner man) benefits did David experience? What bodily benefits did he experience?
- Which of those benefits do you see in your life?
- Are you "on the path of life" (v. 11)?
- Are you increasingly finding joy and pleasure in Yahweh's presence?