

Prayers That Shape Us



The Prayer For Courage | Psalm 27:1-14

1. When you feel afraid or uncertain, what usually occupies your attention: the danger itself, possible outcomes, other people's opinions, or God's character?

Remembering Who God Is

2. Read Psalm 27:1-3. David calls the Lord his light, salvation and stronghold. What does each description tell us about God, and what particular kind of fear does each one answer? Cross-references: Psalm 18:28-30; Exodus 14:13-14; Psalm 46:1-3
3. Before David describes what is against him, he declares who is with him. Why does that order matter in prayer? How can repeatedly rehearsing a problem distort our view of it? What would it mean to "relocate" your present difficulty so that God, rather than the difficulty, is at the centre? Cross-references: Psalm 121:1-2; Isaiah 26:3-4; Romans 8:31-32
4. David says, "*The Lord is my light.*" What is the difference between knowing truths about God and personally leaning your weight upon them? Where is that difference most challenging for you presently? Cross-references: Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Timothy 1:12; Psalm 62:5-8
5. David does not deny the existence of enemies or danger. How, then, does biblical faith respond to fear? What is the difference between feeling afraid and allowing fear to rule us? How can we speak truth to ourselves without pretending everything is fine? Cross-references: Psalm 56:3-4; Isaiah 41:10; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Seeking God's Presence

6. Read Psalm 27:4-6. While surrounded by danger, David's "one thing" is to seek the Lord. What does this reveal about his deepest need? Why might we seek changed circumstances more readily than God's presence? How could seeking God change us even before our circumstances change? Cross-references: Psalm 63:1-5; Psalm 84:1-4, 10; Luke 10:38-42
7. What might it mean to "*gaze on the beauty of the Lord*"? Which aspects of God's character do you most need to contemplate at present? How does sustained attention to God reshape our imagination and emotional life? Cross-references: Exodus 33:18-19; Psalm 103:1-8; 2 Corinthians 3:18
8. Chris said, "*What we gaze at shapes us.*" What is currently discipling your attention? What habits intensify fear? What practices help you return your attention to God? Cross-references: Philippians 4:8-9; Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 12:1-3



What did you discover about God in this passage?
What did you discover about people in this passage?
How will you commit to obey this passage this week?
With whom will you share what you have learned?



9. Notice the images in verses 5-6: God hides David, shelters him, sets him upon a rock and lifts his head. What do these images communicate? Do they promise the absence of trouble, or security within trouble? When have you experienced God steadying you without immediately removing the difficulty? Cross-references: Psalm 3:3; Psalm 61:1-4; John 16:33
10. Why can worship be an act of resistance while fear is still present? How might singing, Scripture, prayer and Christian fellowship prevent fear from deciding where our attention rests? Cross-references: 2 Chronicles 20:12, 20-22; Acts 16:22-25; Hebrews 10:23-25

Telling God the Truth

11. Read Psalm 27:7-12. How does the emotional tone change in these verses? What do David's cries for mercy, guidance and acceptance reveal about mature faith? Why are confidence and vulnerability not contradictions? What might we lose when we edit our emotions before coming to God? Cross-references: Psalm 13:1-6; Psalm 62:8; Hebrews 4:14-16
12. Chris said, "*Prayer gives fear a name and then refuses to give fear the throne.*" What does that look like practically? Is there a fear you have acknowledged privately but not honestly brought before God? What truth about God needs to be spoken alongside that fear? Cross-references: Psalm 56:3-4; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7
13. What does Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane teach us about courage? How does Jesus combine honest anguish, a bold request and obedient surrender? How can we ask God to change a situation while still entrusting ourselves to his will? Cross-references: Matthew 26:36-46; Hebrews 5:7-9; 1 Peter 2:21-23

Waiting With Hope

14. Read Psalm 27:13-14. What enables David to expect the goodness of God "*in the land of the living*"? How is Christian hope different from positive thinking? Why must hope rest in God's character rather than in our preferred outcome? Cross-references: Lamentations 3:21-26; Romans 8:24-25; Romans 15:13
15. What is the difference between waiting for the Lord and passive resignation? According to these passages, what can we continue doing while we wait? What might active, faithful waiting look like in your present situation? Cross-references: Psalm 37:3-7; Isaiah 40:28-31; James 5:7-11
16. Why does David repeat, "*Wait for the Lord*"? What makes waiting difficult for the heart? How might God provide strength as "daily bread" rather than giving us the whole road at once? Cross-references: Exodus 16:4-21; Matthew 6:11, 34; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
17. Chris suggested that waiting can deepen patience, expose false securities and teach the church to carry us. Which of these have you experienced? How can this group help someone who is presently waiting? Cross-references: Romans 5:3-5; Galatians 6:2; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4



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