

Facing Threats*Psalm 27*

Introduction: We live in an uncertain world. At times the uncertainties of life can produce all kinds of anxiety and worry in our lives. We feel threatened. The threat might be a relational concern or a health issue. It might be a decision looming in the future or a financial concern. There are a hundred things it could be. In the midst of such concerns, do we find confidence in God's presence? In Psalm 27, we see an example of one who, in the midst of a very troubling situation, felt confident in the Lord. May David's example give us some direction for how we might better experience God and His help in the face of threats.

Opening Discussion: Do you feel any sense of threat from anything in your life? If so, what?

Read Psalm 27:1-6

1. What phrases give us an indication of what David felt threatened by?
2. In the midst of this threat, what did he believe to be true about God?
3. How did David express his confidence in the Lord in the midst of this threat?
4. What did David ask for and seek (v. 4)?

Brian said:

I'm sure there are many things that you are asking from God right now. In light of your fears and worries, you might be asking God for better health; or better relationships; or a better financial situation. You are hoping that God will change your situation so you might have peace. But here's the thing, as I look at David's situation, his confidence and a sense of peace and security didn't come once the threat was removed, it came in the midst of the threat.

5. When you face some kind of threat, do you tend to ask for God to change the situation or to help you experience Him in the midst of the situation?

Brian quoted Ronald Rolheiser who said:

Our struggle with unbelief, the struggle to make God more real in ordinary life, is really a struggle with contemplation (*The Shattered Lantern*, 22, 24).

6. What do you think Rolheiser means by this?
7. Do you feel a need to experience God as more real in your ordinary life? Why or why not?
8. How does contemplation help make God "more real in ordinary life"?
9. Contemplation is one of the things that Brian encouraged us to do to seek God slowly. How much is contemplation on God a part of how you seek Him?
10. As you think about those things that make you feel threatened or that worry you, what aspects of God's character would be good to contemplate?