

The Psalms show us...

- We are not alone in how we feel. It gives us a voice to how we feel.
- How to deal with our feelings. It points to who Jesus is in our lives.
- Truth in our lives. They speak to our view of God, and God's view of us.

Psalm 27

- One of the 73 Psalms David wrote.
- It's a mix of two genres. A Psalm of confidence [vs. 1-6] and a psalm of lamenting or desperation [vs. 7-14].
- It involves a range of emotions. If life seems like a rollercoaster ride of emotions... you are not alone.

Light, Salvation & Fortress [vs. 1, Psalm 56:13, John 8:12]

- David sets the tone for the rest of the psalm. He puts God first.
- These are truths about how God reveals himself to David, and how he will further reveal himself to generations after David, through Jesus.
- **LIGHT** eliminates darkness. Illuminates our way. Reveals truth and brings life.
- **SALVATION** takes a step forward. It's about redeeming, saving, assuring.
 - What light is in showing, salvation is in doing.
- **FORTRESS** shows that God is a continued place of safety, not for just 'moments in time.'
- David centres on these realities of God to dismantle his fear.

Question:

How has God shown you that he is your light, salvation, and place of safety?

What other attributes of God stand out most to you?

Who Do You Think You Are? [vs 1, Romans 8:31]

- David faced many celebratory moments but just as much or more disappointments, setbacks and attacks.
- STORY: Being the youngest in the family. Making demands. “Who do you think you are?”
- David’s approach to fear was “why should I be afraid?”
- If God is _____ in my life, then give no credit to _____.
- Psalm 27 doesn’t belittle our fears. It focuses on the goodness of God.

Questions:

Is there anything that you feel might separate you from God?

When fear makes demands of you, how do you respond?

Reflect on what makes you afraid. Why do you fear?

The Thing I Seek Most [vs 4, Psalm 91]

- David’s greatest desire was to live in God’s presence everyday.
- God becomes centre. Our troubles fall to the peripheral.
- David walked side-by-side with God each day. When troubles came, he didn’t need to start running to God. He was already there.
 - There’s a protective benefit to the nearness of God.
- Jesus is our source of LIFE. The gospel is the centre!

QUOTE:

*“staying centred on God - his words, his ways - is the essence of life for the soul...
[and] a soul disconnected from its centre is like an unplugged computer [or a] fish left
on the banks of a river that would give it life.”*

- John Ortberg, Soul Keeping

Questions:

What do you most desire? What are you centring on?

What causes you to ‘unplug’ from God?

What keeps you centring on God?

Here Me as I Pray [vs. 7, Mark 10:46-52]

- David battles between his confidence in God and his earthly reality.
- His confidence doesn't hide his desperation.
- David is detailed-orientated in his pleas. It might seem like it's out of impatience or unbelief.
- Mark 10:46-52: Jesus and Bartimaeus. "Rabbi, I want to see!." "Go, for your faith has healed you."

Questions:

What do you want God to do for you?

What would be a step of faith in the situations you deal with?

The Land of the Living [vs 13-14, Matthew 6:26, Isaiah 40:31]

- David is expecting God's goodness in his present day.
- Sometimes we get impatient or frustrated when God doesn't seem to understand 'our timing.' However, God is a faithful provider.
- *"Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"* Matt 6:26
- God uses our waiting to renew us and to teach us. Sometimes he uses our waiting to 'exhaust us of ourselves.'
- Be brave and courageous. God's never forgets about us. We are never too broken to be shown peace, mercy or grace. Maybe it's in our moments of desperate need that God is closer than ever before, ready to show us his goodness.
- Personal Application story of how God showed me his goodness amidst a season of being afraid.

Questions:

How might God be showing you his goodness through your struggle?

How do you see God in midst of your struggle?

What are you expecting from God?