

Courage the Lord | Psalm 27

Psalm 27 teaches that courage comes from the Lord. David trusts God, prays for help, and asks not to be abandoned. He also calls others to seek God and wait for Him.

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Long Summary

Psalm 27 | Fear and Courage in the Lord Month Date, Year•Erik Raymond• Psalm 27 Main Point: When fear tempts your heart, take courage in the Lord. Outline: 1. Talk to yourself in light of who God is and what he has promised (verses 1-6) - David begins with confidence: the Lord is light, salvation, and stronghold. - He reminds himself that enemies, danger, and war are no match for God. - His courage is strengthened by adversity, by remembering God's character, and by longing for God's presence. - He wants to dwell in the house of the Lord, gaze upon his beauty, and worship him with joy. 2. Talk to God in prayer (verses 7-12) - David asks God to hear, be gracious, answer, keep, teach, lead, and protect him. - He seeks God's face and asks not to be forsaken. - Prayer is presented as a way to apply confidence in God directly. - The sermon connects this to Christ, who was forsaken on the cross so believers can pray with confidence. - It also extends an invitation to seek the Lord for forgiveness and salvation. 3. Talk to others by waiting on the Lord together (verses 13-14) - David confesses that he will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. - He encourages others to wait for the Lord, be strong, and take courage. - The message ends by calling believers to trust God's promises and wait for him in faith.

Brief Summary

Psalm 27 | Fear and Courage in the Lord Month Date, Year•Erik Raymond• Psalm 27 Main Point: Take courage in the Lord. Outline: 1. David trusts God and prays for help (verses 1-12). 2. He calls others t

Tags

Psalm 27, fear, courage, Lord, David, trust, prayer, help, main point, outline

Transcript

[0:31] I invite you to open your Bibles to the 27th Psalm, and we will continue our series in the summer in the Psalms today.

[0:45] As I'm sure you're aware, fear is a very common human experience, whether from the youngest of us, afraid of monsters under the bed. I'm sure I'm not the only one in this room that was afraid of monsters under the bed when I was young, maybe even some young people here today. Or maybe as you get older, the fears become more sophisticated, fear of flying, fear of water, fear of spiders. Or maybe just more general fear of today, fear of tomorrow, having the money that we need. Our health, will it endure? Will the job deliver? will we still have a job? Will I get what I need to get done at school to get a good job? Will I get married? Will I have children? Will the marriage be healthy? Will the children be healthy? Will they come to know the Lord? What about that last hour of death with that encroaching shadow of the last day? All of these things are things that we can be afraid of. At the end, fear is about realizing that you don't have control. That's what it's about. We get afraid because we don't have control, and that's why it can be paralyzing.

[2:10] But what if you could realize you don't have control and not be afraid? That is, not bury the reality that you don't have control, that which causes you to be afraid, and at the same time, not actually be afraid. Not with some type of mental gymnastics or jiu-jitsu to trick yourself, but actually be able to say, I don't have control and I'm not afraid. Now that would be something that's what psalm 27 shows us.

[2:46] The reality of someone who realizes they don't have control and then shows us the pathway to not fear, what does this look like well the main point i think this psalm psalm 27 we're going to read in just a minute shows us is that when fear tempts your heart take courage in the lord, it doesn't say the fear doesn't happen, but when it comes, take courage in the Lord. And in fact, in thinking about this psalm, even after the bulletins were printed, I was continuing to think about it. I don't really love the outline that's in the bulletin. I like the verses that are in the bulletin next to the words, but I want to change them up on the fly. So if you're a type of person who takes notes as you go through and writes on the back of the bulletin along this outline, I'm going to change it now as we go. And I think it'll be memorable. You might not even have to write it down because it's much better than what it is here. How do you take courage in the Lord? Three ways. In verses one through six, talk to yourself. In verses seven through 12, talk to God. And in verses 13 and 14, talk to others. That's much easier than those three, even though they all that we'll see, isn't it? How do you take courage in the Lord? Talk to yourself. Talk to God. Talk to others. Let's read the psalm.

[4:10] Psalm 27. We'll read the whole thing. Psalm of David, verse 1. The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and my foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear. Though war rise against me, yet I will be

confident. It. One thing I have asked of the Lord that I will seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in the shelter in the day of trouble. He will conceal me under the cover of his tent. He will lift me high upon the rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy. I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

[5:20] Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud. Be gracious to me and answer me. You've said, Seek my face. My heart says to you, Your face, Lord, do I seek. Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger. O, you have been my help. Cast me not off. Forsake me not, O God of my salvation. My father and mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in. Teach me your way, O Lord. Lead me in a level path because of my enemies. Give me not up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me and they breathe out violence. I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord. Be strong. Let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord. This is God's Word. When fear tempts your heart, take courage in the Lord. First, talk to yourself. Verses 1-6.

[6:26] We see that this psalm, particularly at the beginning, starts out with confidence. And we see that his confidence that emerges as we go through the psalm is rooted in a couple of realities. First, it's rooted in who God is. Notice how he starts the psalm off. The Lord is my light and, implied, is my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is my stronghold of my life. Light, salvation, stronghold. He's saying this is who God is. He's my light and you know in the midst of darkness to have light gives reassurance and encouragement and.

[7:13] Hope in the midst of it. He's not afraid. God is his light, not just illumination, but also ability to see and know what reality is. God is our light. Not only that, but he is our salvation, our deliverer. He rescues us from evil and from all that would oppress us. And he's the stronghold. He's the refuge. He's the cave that he runs into for protection. And you combine these three, that God is the light in the midst of darkness. He's salvation in the midst of his enemies. And he is the rescue or the refuge or the stronghold in his life. This is what he is. So in the midst of him being afraid, he's reminding himself. He's talking to himself. He's saying, hey, self, listen. This is who God is for me. He's my light. I don't walk in darkness. He's my salvation. I'm not doomed. He's triumphant. And he is my stronghold. Nobody can get me. I'm secure in him. Logically, this reality of who God is would be really encouraging because if he is God, as he says he is, and he is.

[8:32] Then he's supreme. And no matter who the enemies are that are coming after him, they're no match for God, for he alone is supreme. So whatever enemy it is that comes after him, they can't defeat him. For God is supreme. And this God who is supreme, who is the light, the salvation, and the stronghold, also makes promises. We see that in verse 1. Who shall I fear? If God is my stronghold, if he's my salvation, of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers come after him, or adversaries and foes, they're coming. And you see this sense of violence here, this poetic language to eat up my flesh. Or an army, verse 3, against me. Or a war, in verse 3. Since God is with his people, there's no need to

fear. He's the stronghold. Why would I be afraid? He's my salvation. Who should I fear? These evildoers coming to destroy me. I'm not afraid of him.

[9:43] It's they who stumble and fall. My heart, verse 3, shall not fear. Even if a war comes against me, the enemies are mounting up in this battle. It's okay. I'll be confident.

[9:58] This is what he's telling himself. He's reminding himself who God is. His confidence is grounded in who God is, in God's supremacy, and what God promises to do. This is who God is. he's supreme and he promises to be with his people. Those two might just be assumed because you've been a Christian for a while and you're thinking, oh, of course, God is supreme and he promises to be with his people.

[10:28] It would be little value to you on Tuesday morning or Thursday afternoon when your heart sinks for whatever the news is that's weighing you down if God was just supreme. So there's a God and he's supreme over everything. But what value is that is if he's not supreme and for you making promises to you? See, those two are married together. The reality that God's supreme and he's made promises to you. That's what gets David out of the funk. The reality that God has made promises to him and he can be trusted. It's not just that he's supreme, but he's supreme for you if you're in relationship with him. So his confidence is in God and that he has made promises. Second, notice that this confidence that he has as he's talking to God is strengthened by a few things. How does our confidence get strengthened? Or how do we take increasing courage in the Lord? You want courage in the Lord? You got to remember who he is.

[11:36] But also, surprisingly perhaps, this confidence is strengthened by adversity. That's interesting. This psalm seems like it's moving in a direction where David is going from, at the beginning, kind of hanging on, white-knuckling it, till the end, hands are open, appealing to other people. Trust in the Lord. So how do you go from this kind of white-knuckled, I've got to get through this, to I appeal to you to trust? Well, the whole trial itself actually brings this about. He's in adversity. That's the whole context of this psalm. He's in adversity. So the confidence in God is actually strengthened by that. Not that adversity is necessarily good, but God uses it for good. That's one of those types of things when we say all things work together for good, for those who love God and are called according to his purpose. And when we think of good, we think about things that would be desirable and pleasant and comfortable. But the context of that verses in Romans 8, it's all about suffering.

[12:53] So Paul's saying that suffering works itself out for good in the life of people. And here, this is what we see in this verse, in this psalm, David's struggling, and God's using the struggle to increase his confidence in him. It's like he says in another place in Psalm 119, before I was afflicted or adversity, I went astray. But now, after going through the struggle, I keep your word. The context of adversity actually is the tool that God uses to strengthen his people's confidence in him. That's just, that's not the way we think. Because we think comfort, good. Ease, good. Adversity, bad. God.

[13:45] I'll be honest with you. If I'm going to go out for a run tomorrow morning and I see that the wind is going to be over 13 miles an hour, I think, not today. It sounds like a good day for a walk. Why? That's adversity. I want something good. But actually something happens. If you run into the wind, you get stronger. It's resistance. And that's what God does. He builds the spiritual muscles through adversity. And one of the things that happens in this adversity is that his trust grows in God. It gets him to the place where he's dropping down and he's thinking about who God is. So adversity. Adversity is what God uses. His confidence is also strengthened by considering who God is. Thinking about who God is, in fact. That's what he does. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

[14:40] But not only that, it's also strengthened by being in God's presence. Look at verse 4. One thing I've asked of the Lord that I will seek after, that I might dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. That's what he wants. He wants to be in God's presence. And he uses multiple words for the presence of God, the house of the Lord, gazing upon the beauty, inquiring in the temple, being in his tent, verse 6. This is what he wants. He wants to be in God's presence. Why? It's actually his confidence is strengthened by being in God's presence. Isn't that your experience as well on a Sunday morning where you gather together with God's people, you sing these hymns of encouragement, and you're reminded of this truth?

[15:27] Maybe in the morning, the first song, all creatures of our God and King should give God praise. And it's this wonderful picture of all of creation coming together and triune praise to give God glory. And you didn't walk in here singing and feeling like that. You walked in here discouraged. But you come into the God's house, the church, and you sing hymns of praise. And you say to yourself, it is right to give God praise. And if creation's working right, it's praising God. And I'm not praising God now, but my brothers and sisters around me are praising God and they're encouraging me to praise God. And you lift your voice to him. Your confidence in God grows. You sing a song like in Christ alone, and you're reminded that no power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck you from his hand. And you're reminded, yes, my assurance is not based on my performance, but Christ's performance. It's not are based on my ability to keep God's word, but Jesus's ability. It's about God's promises and power. He does it, not me. And our confidence grows by gathering in the presence of God's people, or even reading a psalm like this, which reminds us of who God is and what he has done. Our confidence grows.

[16:44] Not only that, we see in verse 4 that his confidence grows as he longs to be in the presence of God, beholding his beauty. He says that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life and gaze upon the beauty of the Lord. That's what he wants. He's thinking about that. He's strengthening himself as he's expressing his desire to be in God's presence and behold his beauty. How does he see his beauty? He sees his beauty through the word. Reflecting upon his promises and his great acts. He wants to be in his presence. Notice his confidence in God. Verse 5, he gives three he wills as he's thinking about this beauty. Verse 5, he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble. He will conceal me under the cover of his tent. He will lift me high upon the rock.

[17:41] In other words, he won't abandon me. He won't leave me. He will not leave me down. He will take care of me. This is who God is. These are his promises. And David's confidence is growing. And these wills are followed by his wills. In verse six, now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy. I will sing and make melody to the Lord. He's going to respond in worship. So you see, God's faithfulness strengthens him, gives him courage, and then he'll respond to that.

[18:19] This is how his confidence grows. All of this is him talking to himself. He's not talking to God here. He's talking to himself. He's not talking to anybody else. He's reminding himself of these things. There's a couple of lessons to take away. One valuable lesson here is that we respond to fear with truth. So as you notice yourself becoming afraid, whether it's anxiety or fear, or whatever's gripping you in that way. And I think it applies to every single person in this room as we become afraid about something or someone. The way you respond to that, like David, is to respond with truth. Engage the mind, engage the heart. Who is God? What has he promised? What has he done?

[19:13] Go to church. Hear the word. Sing with God's people. long for fellowship with him. You see the difference between the way that we typically respond to fear. Many people respond, try to numb the fear, distract from the fear, ignore the fear, or fixate on it and just dwell upon it, and it grips you and like strangles you. David models for us engaging the mind and the heart with it. Even if you might not be feeling like worshiping God, David knows the medicine he needs to take is to think about who God is and to think about what he's promised, and to get himself to worship. That's what he wants to do. So sometimes you may not desire God. You may not want to worship God. You may not want to do, you may be gripped by fear, but you need to say, Psalm 27 teaches me that I need to take courage in the Lord rather than be gripped by fear. I need to take courage in the Lord. How do I take courage in the Lord? First thing, talk to yourself. Remind yourself who God is and what he's promised you.

[20:27] And you can help others to do the same, reminding one another, as you see your brothers and sisters discouraged and fearful, remind them of who God is and what he's promised. The second valuable lesson here is that you see in this passage with David that you long for what you love. You long for what you love. For David, he longs for the beauty of the Lord. He's in a rough spot. He's in a hard time. And what he's thinking about, longing for, is the beauty of the Lord. Why does he long for that? Because he loves God. He loves God's glory. That's the simple answer of why he's doing it. You long for what you love. So let me ask you, as your mind goes into neutral or your first thoughts in the morning, your first thoughts and last thoughts in the evening, your thoughts throughout the day. What do you long for?

[21:41] How long does it take throughout the day? I'm talking to Christians here. How long does it take throughout the day for a desire to see the glory and the beauty in the greatness of God? How long does it take you to talk to God? To praise Him? To commune with Him?

[22:08] David is showing us the reflex of a heart that longs for God. You'll grow in courage as you fall more and more into a loving relationship with God, because you will see how great He is.

[22:32] You also see the value of worship. It's like rebar for your soul. You know rebar, the bars that sit in between steel and concrete to hold it together and to be strong. And that's what it ends up being for us as we worship. We find ourselves solidified and strengthened and standing up straight with the promises of God holding us together. It's as if David starts out slumping and he stands up more straight as the psalm goes on, as he's solidified and strengthened by God's promises. As you read your Bible devotionally, underline, make note of God's promises. What has he promised to you, dear Christian? And then take these promises and make them yours and recite them back to him in prayer. there's a great Puritan quote by one Puritan that says, fill your mind with God's promises to encourage your heart. And then in prayer, he says, sue God for these promises. In other words, say, these are what you promised me. Lord, do what you say you would do in my life right now.

[23:50] In prayer. Finally, another lesson for us. We could keep going, but where do you see the beauty of the Lord? Where do you see it? Where do we see the beauty of the Lord? Well, you see the beauty of the Lord in one sense in the sunrise, in the sunset, in the mountains, in the oceans, in creation. You see the beauty of the Lord all over the place, but particularly what David's after is not a sunrise and a sunset or a mountainscape. He's after seeing the glory of God. And where do we see the glory of God preeminently displayed. We see that in Jesus Christ as he came down to earth. Christ came and became a man and he lived. And John the apostle said, we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten son of God, full of grace and truth. And Jesus walked this life. But then at the end of his life, he died upon a cross. He was put in the tomb and then he was raised on the third day, and he ascended to heaven.

[24:48] So you and I don't walk around seeing Jesus. We don't see him physically.

[24:56] But the scripture tells us in 2 Corinthians 3, verse 18, that we behold his glory. How do we do that? Listen to this passage. I'm just going to turn there real quick. If you're quick and you want to see 2 Corinthians 3, 18.

[25:13] The whole context is about reading the Bible and seeing and understanding who Christ is. Listen to this. When we behold the glory of the Lord, we're being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. This comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. What's Paul talking about? He's saying that as you read the Bible, dear Christian, you read the Bible, you see through the Holy Spirit, you see the glory of Christ throughout all of Scripture. That's God's design is to use the Bible like a theater to show his favorite, subject, Jesus, on display. And he puts forth his glory on that screen, the Bible. And as you see him, you behold his glory. And what happens as you behold his glory? As you see Jesus in the scriptures, it says you become transformed by seeing that glory. What you behold, Jesus, in the scriptures, you increasingly become more like and you long for him. So if you want to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, read your Bible. Read your Bible and pray to see Christ's glory.

[26:30] As you see his glory, you'll be made more and more like him and your confidence in God and your courage will grow. Read the Bible. These are some lessons for us. So talk to yourself about who

God is, what he's promised, and follow David's example. Second, talk to God. This is in verses 7 through 12. You notice now he shifts from talking to himself to, So talking about God. He starts out with this urgency. Verse 7. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud.

[27:08] Be gracious to me and answer me. You hear the urgency here. He's not mincing words. Not very flowery language. He's jumping right into it. And he's going from talking to himself to talking to God. He does this all the way down to verse 12. But what is prayer but confidence applied? Why would you talk to God if you didn't have confidence that he would hear you? So this confidence that he has in God is growing and now he's praying. What particularly does he pray for? Well, in verses 7 through 9, he prays that God would hear him. He's saying, hear me, listen to me, give ear to my prayer. Verse 7, hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me. Verse 8, you've said, seek my face. My heart says to you, your face, Lord, do I seek. Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger. This is what he's asking. He's begging God to listen to him and not turn away. To be gracious and to answer.

[28:18] It's how he's taking his courage as he comes to God and he's leaning into these covenant promises. Lord, hear me. Lord, listen to me. Be gracious to me. Notice what he says in verse 8. He's applying one of God's commands. Seek my face. And he says, Lord, you tell me. Seek my face. Lord, I'm seeking you. I'm doing what you say. You see David's pattern of prayer? Your word says this. I'm doing it. Is very instructive for us on how to pray. He's saying, hear me. Don't forsake me. Don't turn your back on me. Don't let me go. Keep me. You say, well, why would you pray that? You know God's going to keep you. He's never going to turn his back on you. We never assume upon God's promises. We always cling to him and pray in dependence, Lord, keep me, hear me. Then verse 9 continues on from hear me to keep me, he says you have been my help cast me not off forsake me not oh god of my salvation he's saying don't don't reject me don't let me go keep me hold me close then verse 11 he shifts to teaching, teach me your way oh lord lead me on a level path. He wants to learn God's word. How is he going to grow in courage in God? By learning God's word. Teach me.

[29:44] Verse 11 goes on, lead me, lead me on the level path, the righteous path, even though the enemies are coming after him, lead me. And then verse 12, protect me. Give me not up to the will of my adversaries for false witnesses have risen against me. They breathe out violence, protect me against them. This is how he takes courage in God through prayer. Hear me, keep me, teach me, lead me. He says, my father and mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me. And everyone turns away, even the closest relationships. But David says, the Lord is with me. He's faithful and he's good. The Lord takes care of him. So his confidence is growing as he takes courage in God. How does he do it? He does it through prayer. When fear tempts your heart, take courage in the Lord. How do you do it? Well, you got to talk to God about it. You got to talk to him. If you're.

[30:41] See, there's just certain things that make sense. They're essential ingredients. If you want to grow plants, you need sunlight and you need water. If you want to grow muscle, you need training and you need protein. If you want to grow courage, dear Christian, you need to talk to God. It's as simple

as that. If you want to have courage as a Christian, you need to pray. You will not grow in courage in the Lord away from fear, apart from praying. You've got to pray. Pray.

[31:19] Think of the interesting reality here as you think about this, because every time you read a psalm, you think about these psalms in Jesus' mouth. How did he sing this psalm? How did he pray this psalm? It's really interesting to think about that. Especially this one, as David shows us in verses 7 through 10. Think about this through the eyes of Jesus. If Jesus was to pray, Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, and be gracious to me, and answer me. As he is in the Garden of Gethsemane, crying out to God, Lord, let this cup pass from me. He's hanging upon the cross. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? He's crying aloud, and God is not answering him to save him. Verse 8, You said, Seek my face. My heart says to you, Your face, Lord, do I seek. no one sought the face of God more than Christ. Hide not your face from me. Was it not the cross that appeared of God's face of pleasure being turned away from Christ as he felt and experienced God's wrath?

[32:34] Cast me not off. Forsake me not. That was his prayer. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? He experienced the forsakenness. So how do we think through this? Jesus Christ was deprived from the greatest blessings in the midst of Gethsemane in Golgotha.

[32:59] Before he went to the cross and upon the cross. He was deprived of these blessings. Why? Because he was bearing our curse. This psalm is all about blessings. Jesus took the curse for us. He paid our penalty, and we get the blessings. He secured our salvation, our blessings, so that David could pray this way, so that you could pray this way. The reason why you can say forsake me not, or hear me, be gracious to me, don't turn away, lead me, teach me, keep me, hear me. Why you can pray that and have confidence that God would answer you? It's because on the cross, Jesus Christ was forsaken, was unanswered, and was not kept. And so this psalm drives us to see Christ's beauty for us and even be all the more thankful that this was not cheaply given to us. This was purchased through God's Son's blood. And so as you cry out to God, protect me, lead me, teach me, keep me, hear me, know that that was not purchased cheaply. Christ died for us.

[34:21] Also, if you hear this one, you're not yet a Christian, I think you might find particular encouragement in verse 8. It says, you have said, seek my face. Here, David says, likely quoting from Psalm 24 or Psalm 105, this seek my face is actually, as ESV notes, in the plural. So, it's just saying, you all seek my face. It's God's call to his creation to come to him, to seek him, to find help and salvation, that he can be your light and your stronghold and your salvation.

[35:01] Salvation is not a reward for us for doing good things. It's a gift for sinners like us that respond to this invitation. Seek me, God says. Turn to me. So if you're here this morning and gripped by fear and aware of your sin and you want forgiveness. Seek him. I say, well, how do I seek him? You can read this psalm. You can get in behind David and you say, Lord, be gracious to me and answer me. You've said, seek my face. I say to you, I seek you. I want forgiveness. I want to know you. And the one that seeks him will not be rejected. That's the heart of God. He welcomes those who come to him in faith. He will receive you. That's what he promises to do. If that's something you want to learn more

about or have questions about, I would love to talk with you after, maybe to pray with you, answer any questions you might have. This is the vital truth. It's how to know God through Jesus Christ. So how does he grow in courage? Talks to himself and talks to God. And finally he talks to others Verses 13-14.

[36:18] Look what he does. He makes a confession of faith. Verse 13, I believe I shall look upon, the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. He's saying in the midst of this, I believe that I will look upon God, behold him, see him, and see his goodness in the land of the living. He's talking about resurrection. He's seeing him in heaven and the inheritance of life. I believe I will look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Even though these people were to kill me and I was to die, I believe God will take care of me. He is my savior and he is the promise keeper. He has promises that extend beyond the grave. Man may put me in the ground, but God will raise me up and I will be with him forever. And so he's saying with confidence, with an expression of faith, this is what courage looks like. Courage looks in the face of fear and says, God is more powerful than this. And he's faithful. Even if you kill me, he'll raise me up.

[37:32] That's not irrational. That's powerful. When fear tempts your heart, take courage in the Lord who raises the dead. He would give me life and land of the living. In verse 14, he pivots and he says, out of this, my exhortation for you is to wait for the Lord. Be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord. Wait. Be patient. Trust him. Be strong. Be strong in him, in faith. Let your heart take courage in him. What does it look like to take courage? Talk to yourself and pray to him.

[38:18] And wait for the Lord. Now, I do think these verses would be verses that Jesus would have prayed and took comfort in, because as he went to the cross, we're told in Hebrews that for the joy set before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame. He went to heaven he looked through calvary and looked ahead to the resurrection, and he knew psalm 16 10 that he would not let his holy one undergo decay he would in fact look upon the goodness of the lord in the land of the living and he did wait for the lord he hung upon that cross he went into the grave, and god did raise him up on the third day and he did go in fact to heaven and he was strong and his heart took courage in the Lord and he waited upon the Lord and for his, courage in God we are able to do the same as we follow him to wait upon him.

[39:25] So you cannot ignore fear. It doesn't do any good. You can't pretend like it doesn't exist. You can't numb it. You can't distract yourself away from it. Fear is the realization that you're not in control. What the Bible offers, and this is so wonderful, is to come face to face with your fears and realize that there's one more powerful who actually makes promises to you, that will comfort you and protect you and see you through it all the way to the end, who promises good to you. So even if you're not a Christian here this morning, if there was a God, wouldn't you want one to be just like this? Wouldn't you want one to be just like this, that was so powerful and so good and so faithful that you could cast yourself upon him that no matter what circumstance in life you faced, you could take courage in him. That's the God of the Bible. That David could be in the depths of despair in the beginning of the psalm and come away in the end and say, he's awesome. Trust him. Wait upon him. Be patient. Take

courage in him because he's that good. I pray that we, even, the smallest amount, would take courage in the Lord.

[40:50] Talk to yourself. Talk to Him. He's faithful. Let's pray.

[41:06] Lord, we pray, we ask that you would hear us and that you indeed would keep us. You would be gracious to us and teach us your way. That you'd lead us on a level path. That you grant us grace to wait for you and to be strong and take courage in you. May we grow in greater familiarity of your promises and what your word says about you. Even as we gaze upon the beauty of the Lord through the scriptures and see our glorious Savior, whether in the humiliation of his life or the exaltation of his resurrection, we would find great joy in him and rest in him. Lord, thank you. We pray that you would strengthen our faith even as we behold you in the scriptures. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. It's, not just such a bad idea.