

Crossway Life Group, Week of March 15

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Psalm 27. Sermon: "The Stronghold of my Life"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

1. **Introduction.** Different things draw their energy from different sources. This week, we are thinking about what the source of energy is, or what the driving force is, for our lives.
2. **Read Psalm 27. Now re-read verses 1-3.** Poetry uses figures of speech to compare one thing to another thing of a different kind, often to make a description more emphatic or vivid. What words and images does David use to describe things that threaten him? What does he highlight about these threats?
3. **Re-read verses 4-6.** What words and images does David use to convey places of blessing? Blessing is not a physical location, but a place of the heart in God's presence. What 'places' or 'activities' help assure your heart of God's presence and protection?
4. **Re-read verses 7-12.** What are the ways David actively pursues God's presence? What are his requests?
5. **Re-read verses 13-14.** David speaks to his own soul in verses 13-14. What is his confidence? How would you paraphrase these words for your own soul?
6. Do you have any other questions about the passage or the sermon?

The Big Idea

**The LORD is the matchless stronghold of our lives
no matter what dangers or troubles we face**

Application & Reflection Questions

1. What are you tempted to view as your "life force" or your stronghold, especially when you are in trouble? Sometimes our deepest hopes are clearest to us in what we fear losing (our strengths or resources), and sometimes they are clearest to us in our needs, weaknesses, or limitations.
2. What practices help you look intently at God? What new step (or renewed step) will you take this week to look more intently at God?
3. **Read Romans 8:31-19.** How does this passage extend David's words into a specifically Christian expression?
4. What steps will you take this week to live boldly for God? How might your Life Group be able to help you take that action together? For example, perhaps you can pray for specific actions together, or encourage each other, or agree to ask each other next week what actions you have taken.

Growing in Cultural Understanding

David wrote this poem out of his own cultural and life experience. He was a shepherd, warrior, and worship leader. So he understood protecting vulnerable livestock, defending himself and others in military battles, and worshipping in God's temple.

Given your own cultural contexts and life experiences, what images would you use to express the presence and protection of God for His people? Try being a poet. Complete this sentence then share with the group:

- When _____ (*actual thing that threatens you*) makes me feel like _____ (*image*), even then I will be confident _____ (*image of God's protection*)
- Example: When **people talk behind my back**, it makes me feel like **arrows piercing my heart**, even then I will be confident **in God's strong shield**.
- **If God protects in extreme cases, so God protects in lesser things too.** How does your own or other's creative expressions help you see this truth in ways that are meaningful for you?

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?

In particular, think about this new season of life that is so deeply affected by the coronavirus. What are some practical ways to encourage and serve each other this week? And are there other people in the church that you might be able to serve and encourage, either individually or together?

Psalm 27 (New International Version)

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?

²When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,
it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

³Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

⁴One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

⁶Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.

⁸My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

⁹Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.

¹⁰Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.

¹¹Teach me your way, Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.

¹²Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

¹³I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

¹⁴Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

Romans 8:31-39 (New International Version)

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.