

One Thing: Fearless Faith in the Living God

Read **Psalm 27:1-14** and Answer the following:

#1 In verse 1, David names God three times — Light, Salvation, and Stronghold. Why do you think David names God three times rather than offering a single, general declaration?

As a group, discuss the specific fears that most paralyze you right now. Which of David's three names — Light, Salvation, or Stronghold — speaks most directly to your situation? How does naming God as the specific answer to a specific fear differ from simply telling yourself not to be afraid?

#2. David's confidence in verses 2–3 is not theoretical — Why does it matter that David is writing from the furnace and not from a comfortable place of safety?

Think of a season when your own faith was genuinely tested — when the threat and fear was real. What did you discover about God in that season that you could not have learned any other way?

#3. Verse 4 David makes this declaration, "One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek..." What does it reveal about the state of David's heart that danger could not dislodge or replace his deepest longing? And what does it reveal about the nature of true faith that its primary orientation is toward God Himself rather than toward what God can do?

If God gave you everything you currently want — health, financial security, restored relationships, the resolution of every hard situation — but withheld His own presence, would that be enough? What does your answer reveal about what is actually at the center of your life right now?

#4. Embedded within the "one thing" verse are three distinct expressions: to dwell, to behold, and to inquire. What does each one require of us practically? And what does the combined picture of all three tell us about what a flourishing life of worship and faith actually looks like in daily terms?

Which of the three — dwelling, beholding, or inquiring — is most underdeveloped in your own life? What has crowded it out?

#5. The psalm shifts dramatically with verses 7-9. "Hear, O LORD, when I cry..., God says "Seek My face," and David said, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." What does this exchange tell us about who initiates our seeking — and what it means that God calls us toward Himself even in the middle of our most desperate moments?

Is there a difference in our culture between the faith we project on Sunday morning and the honest, urgent cries of verses 7-9 that happen privately in the dark? If so, why is that?

#6. Verse 10 deals with the deepest level of human abandonment. What does it mean that God specifically names Himself as present and faithful at the very moment when the most primary human relationships —i.e. a parent's love — prove insufficient or disappear entirely?

Many in every group carry real experiences of being let down, abandoned, or failed by people i. e. — parents, spouses, churches, leaders, friends. How does verse 10 speak to those wounds directly?

#7. Verse 13 is the psalm's great pivot: What is the difference between this kind of forward-looking faith and mere optimism? And what is at stake if a believer loses this conviction during a prolonged season of waiting?

Where in your life right now are you depending on the belief that you will see God's goodness — not yet visible, not yet resolved, but trusted?

#8. The final word of the entire psalm is a command — *qavah* — to wait. What does it say about God that He ends this psalm not with an answer, but with an instruction about how to endure while the answer comes? And what does it say about the nature of faith that courage is required not for action, but for waiting?

*********Close together with this: (If you're comfortable with sharing) Name — specifically and honestly — the situation in your life where you are currently waiting on God. Then, as a group, commit together to the posture of verse 14. Not waiting passively, not moving ahead of God's timing, not filling the silence with noise or a plan of your own making — but choosing, together, to wait on the LORD with good courage, as a community that holds one another in the season of the unanswered. *****