

No. 8 **Courage Weakens Versus Courage Strengtheners (Symposium)**
 —Complaint Versus Thanksgiving

[PLEASE NOTE: This symposium discusses Psalm 27. Discuss only the verses that are included in your outline. The talks include video dramatizations that feature the same family. In each talk, a member of the family is confronted with a challenge that tests his or her courage. This talk contains two videos. The first video presents the challenge; the second video demonstrates how the challenge can be overcome]

HOW COMPLAINING WEAKENS COURAGE (5 min.)

As you watch the following dramatization, note how a complaining attitude weakens courage

[Video crew begins two-minute video]

If you caught yourself showing a complaining spirit, what would you do?

Especially when a difficult situation persists, we need confidence that Jehovah is supporting us

Even when complaints are justified, an improper focus can foster doubt that Jehovah sees the situation, that he cares, and that he will act in due time (Ps 37:5; 1Pe 5:7)

This can weaken our confidence and courage

When ten of the chieftains brought back a bad report about Canaan, the Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron; they doubted that Jehovah was concerned about them, and they lost the courage to conquer the land (Nu 13:1, 2; 14:1-3; Php 2:14)

HOW THANKSGIVING STRENGTHENS COURAGE (2 min.)

[Read and discuss Psalm 27:1-3]

Verses 1, 2: David is filled with courage as he appreciatively recalls how Jehovah has rescued him in the past

Verse 3: He is confident that Jehovah will do so again in the future

The lesson: Recounting how Jehovah has blessed us strengthens our confidence in his future support (w12 7/15 23 ¶5)

In the following dramatization, note how Ben and Abby cultivate gratitude

VIDEO (2 min.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO (4 min.)

Instead of fostering a complaining attitude, regularly meditate on the blessings that Jehovah has given you (Jas 1:17)

Consider making a list of your blessings

Establish a new habit: Each time you catch yourself complaining, change to thanksgiving

You can cultivate a thankful heart even when facing severe trials

[Relate one or two experiences from the January 15, 2015, *Watchtower* pages 10-12, paragraphs 9-13]

By replacing complaining with thanksgiving, you will strengthen your confidence in Jehovah and build courage

Brother _____ will now present the next part of this symposium, "Courage Weakens Versus Courage Strengtheners —Unwholesome Recreation Versus Field Ministry"

TO BE COVERED IN 13 MINUTES