

No. 9      **Courage Weakens Versus Courage Strengtheners (Symposium)**  
            **—Unwholesome Recreation Versus Field Ministry**

[PLEASE NOTE: This symposium discusses Psalm 27. Discuss only the verse that is 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 UNWHOLESOME RECREATION WEAKENS COURAGE (5 min.)**

As you watch the following dramatization, notice how Dustin reacts to unwholesome recreation

[Video crew begins two-minute video]

If you were in Dustin's situation, what would you do?

We all need some recreation (Ec 3:4; 4:6)

It can refresh us for spiritual activities

But how might recreation weaken courage?

First, *unwholesome* recreation exposes us to ungodly influences and weakens our determination to do what is right (w13 1/15 14 ¶12; w11 10/15 9 ¶6-8)

[Give examples, such as violent video games, indiscriminate web surfing, and unwholesome social networking]

Our conscience will be weakened by entertainment that is sexually immoral, violent, or spiritistic

Second, even *wholesome* recreation can weaken our godly courage if it becomes excessive (w11 10/15 9-11 ¶9-11)

Excessive recreation is not "advantageous" if we allow ourselves to "be controlled" by it [Read 1 Corinthians 6:12]

It leaves one with less time and energy for activities that build courage, such as the field ministry

**HOW THE FIELD MINISTRY STRENGTHENS COURAGE (3 min.)**

King David had deep appreciation for pure worship [Read Psalm 27:4]

He spoke freely about Jehovah (Ps 26:6, 7, 12)

Our courage grows as we regularly talk to others about our faith

The more we share in the ministry, the more comfortable we become doing so

If we are shy or timid by nature, our courage and faith will grow as we experience Jehovah's help (2Co 4:7)

When we observe how people benefit from the Kingdom message, we are moved to share the good news whenever possible

The courage we gain from sharing in the ministry can help us to take a firm stand when faced with moral challenges

In the following dramatization, note how the field ministry helps Dustin to be courageous

**VIDEO (2 min.)**

**WHAT YOU CAN DO (4 min.)**

Reject recreation that is spiritually harmful

Do not allow pressure from peers to influence you to do something that you know is wrong

Do not let excessive recreation hinder you from having a regular share in the ministry

Occasionally review the amount of time you spend in recreation to determine if adjustments are needed (w17.05 24-25 ¶12-13)  
Take full advantage of the privilege of being 'God's fellow worker' (1Co 3:9)

Schedule time in the ministry each week if possible

Prepare using suggestions from the midweek meeting

Practice your presentation with a family member or a companion

Pray for courage before and during your field service

By avoiding unwholesome recreation and sharing regularly in the ministry, you will strengthen your courage

Brother \_\_\_\_\_ will present the next part of this symposium, "Courage Weakens Versus Courage Strengtheners—Bad Associations Versus Good Associations"

TO BE COVERED IN 14 MINUTES