

**No. 10 Courage Weakeners Versus Courage Strengtheners (Symposium)
 –Bad Associations Versus Good Associations**

[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 BAD ASSOCIATIONS WEAKEN COURAGE (3 min.)

As you watch the following dramatization, notice how bad associations may involve family members

[Video crew begins two-minute video]

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

We tend to become like those with whom we associate (1Co 15:33)

Association with those who lack godly values can weaken our determination to do what is right

HOW GOOD ASSOCIATIONS STRENGTHEN COURAGE (4 min.)

If we choose to associate with courageous servants of Jehovah, we will likely become more courageous [Read Proverbs 13:20]

David chose courageous associates who strengthened his own courage

Hushai bravely risked his life to support David (2Sa 15:32-37)

Jonathan sought David out to encourage him (1Sa 23:16, 17)

Our choice of associates affects whether we will enjoy Jehovah's friendship (Ps 15:1, 4a)

Friendship with Jehovah is a source of great courage; God's friends can rightly look to him for protection (Ps 25:14, 20)

David was confident that Jehovah would protect him even if he faced calamity [Read Psalm 27:5]

In the following dramatization, note how Leah is helped to guard against bad associations

VIDEO (2 min.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO (3 min.)

Choose your associates wisely, knowing that they will affect your courage

Limit your association with those who will have a negative effect on you (Ps 26:4, 5)

Take the initiative to cultivate upbuilding friendships

Seek out those who are spiritually-minded, even if they are older or from a different background

Associate with them in the ministry, at meetings, and at other times

Use caution when deciding how much to associate with unbelieving relatives who have no interest in the truth (*km* 6/89 1 ¶5-6)

Parents, arrange wholesome association for your children [Share suggestions from the January 15, 2010, *Watchtower*, page 20, paragraph 3]

If we choose associates who are spiritually upbuilding, we will protect and strengthen our courage

No. 10 Bad Associations Versus Good Associations—Page 2

Brother _____ will now consider the next part of this symposium, "Courage Weakens Versus Courage Strengthens—Worldly Wisdom Versus Personal Study"

TO BE COVERED IN 12 MINUTES

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