

## Psalm 11 -- Trusting God at All Times

INTRODUCTION – All believers find it easy to trust in God when times are good. Our health is good. Our finances are healthy. Our loved ones are walking closely with the LORD. Things have never been rosier. Under such circumstances, all of us can readily say that God is very good! However, we know that such times are rare and very often they do not last. The real test of faith and devotion unto the LORD is never under calm and tranquil circumstances. This world we live in is wicked and full of sin. When the child of God lives for Christ, he is commanded by God to expect trials and persecution. These trials and persecution come from men and women who are followers of Satan and they do evil work. Their agenda is to tempt believers into sinning against God. They must not be allowed to succeed. The only way to overcome them is to ensure that our trust in God never wanes. There are three truths about our trust that we need to know from this psalm.

David's enemies were kings. It was either King Saul or his own son Absalom, who wanted to be king and succeeded for a brief moment to usurp his father's throne. David faced a daunting and very potent potentate!

**OBJECT OF OUR TRUST – vv 1-2** – Psalm 11 was written by David. The object of David's trust was the LORD. As long as He is the focus of our trust, we will, like David, be able to continue to trust God regardless of the circumstances we are in. The advice given to David was to flee like a bird to his mountain. To compare David with a bird was to compare him with a lost unprotected and defenseless little child. Run and hide in the mountains, for the enemy is near and is after his life. Do not remain where you are but hide from your enemies as they draw near to capture and kill you. Where is God in this dire circumstance? David reassured his soul by declaring that in the LORD he has put his trust. He will not be moved from the path that the LORD has set for him. No matter what the danger and threats, David determined to remain steadfast and unmovable, and to always abound in the work of the LORD! He knew that his labour in the LORD was not in vain.

The wicked were coming with bows drawn ready to shoot their pointed arrows at the upright in heart. Dangers abounded from every quarter. The enemies' aim was to dislodge David from doing God's will and work. They threatened his life. If he was dead, then the will of God through David would be destroyed. If David was fearful and capitulated to their murderous rampage and hid in the mountains, then the enemy would win. The advice given to David was not of faith but of fear! David had to learn to trust God to take care of his life. He had to learn from experience that his life was in God's sovereign hand. As long as his work was not done on earth, David was invincible. No one could take his life! His life was not in the hands of the enemies, no matter how powerful and numerous they were. They could plan in the darkest of night and in

the most secretive of places, and ambush from all quarters, but without the LORD's permission, David could never be harmed. Not one hair on his head would be lost.

We must not lose sight of the object of our trust, which is the LORD God. The moment we lose sight of the LORD, who is our anchor and foundation, we will be easily moved. Fear and threats can easily unseat us from doing the will and work of God.

**BASIS FOR OUR TRUST – vv 3-4** – The next question to plant the seed doubt into David's mind and heart was to say to him, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The foundations here refer to the foundations of the nation such as the rule of law and just justice. However, with kings like Saul hounding David like a wild animal, where could David run and hide? It was only a matter of time before he was caught and killed. Kings had absolute power. They were above the law, for they made their own laws in the governance of their kingdoms. There seemed no hope for David. Who could he appeal to on earth to help him against the king? When righteousness or the lack of it was in the hand of a despot like king Saul, the righteous were defenseless fodder for the king's insatiable wrathful appetite.

However, David was not moved. The foundation of his trust in the LORD was not on this earth! He knew that his LORD was more powerful than any earthly king. The LORD's power and might could never be overthrown by any earthly despot. David knew in his heart by faith that "The LORD *is* in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne *is* in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." If the LORD is in His heavenly holy Temple, this means that He is still in control of all that happens on earth. He has not left His throne. His eyes behold or perceive all that transpire on earth, especially all that happens to His children. His eyelids, probably referring to the fluttering of the eyes, try or prove or test the children of men. David knew that he was being tested by his LORD.

Trials are part and parcel of the believer's life of holiness. The world that is in spiritual darkness will persecute the people of God who live holy lives. They persecuted Christ and therefore they will also persecute the followers of Christ. Even when the foundations on earth and in every nation are destroyed, remember that our LORD is still on the throne in heaven and He is in absolute control of all man, and events.

**RESULTS OF OUR TRUST – vv 5-7** – There are only two results. These three verses were written in chiasmic structure. To those who trust in the LORD, He tries them that they might come out as gold. However to the wicked who love violence, the LORD hates. He rains snares, fire and brimstone, and a horrible tempest upon them that they might be destroyed. This, the LORD says is the portion of their cup. The wicked will receive their just reward for the sins and wickedness they commit against God's servant. David must not take revenge. The LORD will

deal with them in His time. This is not to be confused with church discipline or discipline at home. The above describes the wicked power of men which cause God's servants to be persecuted for the faith and endure personal injury because of Christ and for Christ. Church and home discipline are necessary to deal with sins committed.

To the righteous who are allowed by the LORD to go through trials to strengthen their faith, He says, "the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright." God's children must remain righteous because their LORD is righteous. They must behave like their LORD no matter what their enemies might do to them. They must not sin. The "LORD loveth righteousness" refers to the deeds of David and all of God's people. By not sinning, David would have already won. David could not control the words and actions of wicked men but he could control his own words and actions. The LORD's countenance approves the upright. In other words, the LORD approves both the deeds and the person who is righteous. This is all that matters. All of God's people must continue steadfastly to do God's will and work and trust in the LORD to deal with His children in whatever way He deems best.

**CONCLUSION** – David used the covenantal Name of the LORD five times in this psalm. There was no appeal at all to the Name "God" which would refer to His power. Throughout this psalm, David appealed to the personal and intimate relationship that he had with his LORD. The object and basis of his trust was the LORD and he did not move from it. The outcome of his trust was a complete acceptance by the righteous LORD. David did not sin. He passed the test! Amen.