

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 11:1-7 (NASB)

¹ In the LORD I take refuge; How can you say to my soul, “Flee as a bird to your mountain;

² For, behold, the wicked bend the bow, They make ready their arrow upon the string To shoot in darkness at the upright in heart.

³ **If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?**”

⁴ The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

⁵ The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates.

⁶ Upon the wicked He will rain snares; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.

⁷ For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.

Psalm 11: God Sees All

The exact time and circumstances surrounding David's writing of this psalm are not known. It could have been written during one of the times he was being hunted by Saul, or when he was being pursued by his son, Absalom. David's statement, “*If the foundations are destroyed*” ([verse 3](#)), could refer to a time when lawful authority was being subverted. For this reason, the Commentator **Delitzsch** believes David wrote this psalm during the rebellion of Absalom. Although the exact circumstances under which this psalm was written are uncertain, it is evident that David was in great danger and was being counseled to flee.

David's Steadfast Trust in God ([Psalm 11:1-3](#))

The implication of the counselors was that David should escape to a place of safety like a bird flies to a safe perch. David's enemies were seeking to kill him, yet David rejected the counselors' advice. He would rather face this danger than show a lack of trust in the Lord. David was controlled by a determined trust in God. His friends said, “Yield to circumstances, don't resist, flee to safety.” David realized running away wouldn't solve the problem, so he ran to God.

The [third verse](#) of this Psalm is one that should arouse serious thought. The foundations are the foundations of society: Law and order and justice. When these are overthrown, “*what can the righteous do?*” Well-meaning counselors will give advice, but if it is minus God, it will lead in the wrong direction: flight rather than resistance. Retreat and resignation are characteristic of cowardice. Weakness submits to evil circumstances. Information given today on social issues has the potential for destroying the very foundation of society. David's question is extremely relevant today, “*If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*”

It is the duty of people who know God to trust Him. Stand up and be counted as a Christian against the moral issues which are destroying us. It is not the prerogative of any to speak in favor of issues which God has spoken against. His Word is our authority, and we should not alter it for issues approved by those who do not know God. Examine issues. First, find out what God's Word has to say about them and then make decisions based on His Word. Whatever errors there may be in the structure of society, there should be no doubt about the solidity of the foundations upon which the building is constructed. The great necessity of Christian civilization is to have a solid basis on which to lay down principles, and to secure laws, which express the spirit of eternal righteousness.

The Answer of Faith ([Psalm 11:4-5](#))

“The Lord is in His holy temple.” This was David's justification for His confidence in God. He had full trust in the righteous and all-seeing Lord. The Lord is enthroned regardless of all that happens on earth. Men, righteous and unrighteous, lie open to the eyes of the Lord. The image here is of someone narrowing their eyes to closely examine something very important. He tries the righteous. He recognizes that they are able to stand the test. God lovingly protects the righteous and they lovingly submit to Him.

The righteous are precious to Him and find trials to be a channel of blessing. Trials can do *one of two things*: **refine** or **incinerate**. Another way of saying this: trials can make you **better** or **bitter**. God can use all situations for one's highest good if submitted to Him.

The Portion of the Wicked and of the Righteous ([Psalm 11:6-7](#))

A God of love becomes a God of justice. His love compels Him to exercise judgment toward the workers of iniquity. The love of God is evident when it teaches us that *“the wages of sin is death”* ([Romans 3:23](#)) and also that *“the gift of God is eternal life”* ([Romans 6:23](#)).

“For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.” Not only did David make the Lord his refuge in time of trouble, but he rejoiced in the thought that he would behold the face of God. Though the foundations may shake, God is in control and nothing surprises Him. He sees all and knows all. What confidence we can have when we trust God.