

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adults Sunday School

PSALM 11 – TRUSTING IN GOD IN TIME OF TESTING

I. INTRODUCTION

“To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.” David is undoubtedly the author. He composed this psalm not for private use but for the purpose of temple worship. There is a strong reason for this since it was handed to the chief of Musician for this purpose. If it is meant for private use, David might regulate on his own since he is also knowledgeable in music.

There are many things that can bring down a believer. It is the same for David. However, David knew he has to trust in God in order to overcome the difficult situation before him. Not even his close friends can help him. In fact, his close friends are no help but a hindrance to him. This is a precious lesson we must seek the Lord to help us trust in Him in time of testing.

The context of this psalm could be when David realized that King Saul was going to hunt him down and kill him. His friends who were with him revealed the fear of such a threat and provided a solution which can hinder David from looking to God by faith. We thank God that David did not let fear control him. Instead he chose to trust in God who is above his fear to give him the assurance of help.

II. GOD IS WORTHY TO BE TRUSTED

A. Perfect Answer to Fear

Verse 1, “In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee *as* a bird to your mountain?”

The victory over Goliath had definitely changed David’s life instantly. While we may envy how God has turned David into a champion of faith, we see that his faith was placed constantly under great tests. For no good reason, David was hunted down like an animal by envious King Saul. Therefore David lived in constant danger. It was at such a time, David’s friends advised him, "Flee as a bird to your mountain." His friends, being his friends surely meant well, but David knew that was the wrong approach to the problem he was facing. Therefore he answered with conviction and you can almost feel the anger in his tone, saying, “In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee *as* a bird to your mountain?”

David trusted in God for everything. The victory over Goliath is the evidence. No matter how sincere and well intentioned his friends are, they are not encouraging him to turn to God. In fact, they are not even suggesting any great man’s help that is available out there. They want David to escape like a bird to his own mountain. In other words, they are asking David to save himself. They are indirectly saying that God has already abandoned him. And there is none who can help except himself. So trust in self and there will be a way out. Self help philosophy is what the world advocates that goes against the sole belief in the Creator God who made the heaven and the earth.

David knew his faith well and therefore no matter how his friends wanted David to focus on his fear, he chose to trust in God. His trust in Him is firmly stood unwavering. What an encouragement! Spurgeon says, “He would rather dare the danger than exhibit a distrust in the Lord his God.”

B. The Reality of Fear

Verse 2, "For, lo, the wicked bend *their* bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart."

True and sincere friends you have may be the ones whom Satan will use to entice us to sin. That's what happened to David. He has such friends around him. Remember when Peter told the Lord Jesus not to go to the way of the cross (Matthew 16:22-23). Peter had no evil intention, but the Lord still called him, Satan! Peter has been used by Satan to stop Christ from fulfilling God's plan. Therefore David's friends used fear to try to intimidate David to help himself instead. They saw the danger that David was facing, and direct him to the reality of fear.

In fact, there is no time to waste because the wicked had already "make ready their arrow on the string." David can be killed anytime. Out of desperation, you might want to grab any solution comes to mind or presented to you, but not for David. Moreover the way David's friends describe his situation is something very fearful because the enemies are going to take action in secret. They said, "... that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart." That adds to the fear.

And let us know that there is no situation that should cause us to fear because God is with us. This goes beyond the physical, it is also a spiritual battle. It is a battle against the upright. This refers to all who chose to stand with God and uphold His righteousness and never to sin against Him. Always do the right thing in the sight of God. It does not justify for God's people to succumb to fear just because their life is at stake. We must all be prepared to lay down our life for Jesus' sake.

Verse 3, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Fear is now brought to another level. The purpose of this question is to sow the seed of doubt in the mind of David that there is no more hope for him. The foundations here refer to the foundations of the nation in terms of law and justice. Since the ruler or king is given the power and authority to rule over the land, they ought to rule according to the law and justice. But when they rule above the law, they became the law to the people and who can go against them? And such was David's situation. King Saul has no law that permits him to hunt down David like fugitive and yet he did it. This is an outright abuse of authority. Indeed the foundations have been destroyed with such a king like Saul who thinks he is above the law.

Thank God David's foundation of his trust is in the Lord and not man on this earth. Believers must always find their confidence in God alone. For God is more power than any earthly king. David is not superhuman. In his weakness, he finds strength in God. All because he trusted in Him. That can also happen to us when we learn to trust in God.

III. GOD IS THE ONE WHO GIVES THE TEST

A. Where is God?

Verse 4, "The LORD *is* in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne *is* in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

When troubles abound in our life, we are tempted to question God, Where are you? We think God has forgotten us or abandon us since troubles are not removed and there seems to be no help available. This is what fear will lead us. But David's confidence in the Lord put us to shame. In the midst of uncertainty, David knew where the Lord dwells. He says, "The LORD *is* in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne *is* in heaven:"

Since the Lord is in His holy temple, it means that God is still in control. He has not gone to sleep or abandon His people to fight the battles by themselves. God is still on His throne. He has not left His throne and gone somewhere else. God is keeping an eye on us. He is better than today's modern CCTV and camera that fits to record and detect every of our movement. But there will be places that such devices will be out of bound. Moreover these devices are not immune to destruction. And the men behind these devices cannot be keeping watch all the time. God is definitely far better all these man-made help combined.

B. Why Must This Bad Thing Happen?

Verse 5, “The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.”

David knew that he was tested by the Lord. This was already proven by what he said at the end of verse 4, “...his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.” With His eyes, it means God is watching over all His beloved children. His eyelids, probably referring to the fluttering of the eyes, describe the Lord trying to prove and test His children.

By trying the righteous, it means that God wants His children to live out the righteousness that they received from Christ. The test of faith will accomplish that purpose. Therefore trials and difficulties are part and parcel of every Christian who wants to be obedient to God and His Word. And since this world is God's enemy, His people are not spared from persecution.

The Lord tests His people for the purpose of building them. He did it out of love that they may become stronger in their faith. What about the wicked? The Lord hates them. They have no place in the kingdom of God. What will happen to them? The next verse is frightening.

Verse 6, “Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: *this shall be the portion of their cup.*”

God rains snares, fire and brimstone, and a horrible tempest upon them so that they might be destroyed. These are their just rewards. The Lord says, that this is the portion of their cup. This is what they deserved. The wicked will receive their just reward for the sins and wickedness they commit against God and His faithful servants. Vengeance belongs to the Lord. All those who stand on the Lord's side must trust in God to dispense His perfect judgment in His time.

C. The Purpose of the Test

Verse 7, “For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.”

To know that the Lord is righteous brings about a great comfort and encouragement to David. He knew that his faith and trust in God will not be in vain. He knew the righteous Lord would take up his case. He just had to make sure that he follows after God's righteousness according to His perfect divine will.

God loves righteousness means that He does not want us to compromise our faith and allow unrighteousness to be part of our life. Instead He desires His righteousness be found in our mind, words and actions. Indeed we must love what God loves. And let us love righteousness too because this is what God loves. When we keep unrighteousness away from us, half the battle is won already.

God turns His face towards the righteous. His face is always turned towards those whom He loves. Such turning is symbolic of God's approval of them. God's children must always desire His approval. There is always a great temptation to seek the approval of men. But we who have been wonderfully saved, must know that it is far better to seek God's approval than men's approval. Without God's approval, whatever we do will not be acceptable before Him. And this should disturb us when we are not approved by God.

IV. CONCLUSION

David's trust in the Lord is a great encouragement to us. God is worthy to be trusted. And He is the One who gives us the test that we may learn to trust more in Him. The end is that God be glorified and we are strengthened spiritually. Let us trust in God in time of testing no matter how our enemy may go against us. May God help us. Amen.