



# The Book of Psalms

## Psalm 11

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In Psalm 11, we encounter David at a crossroads between human wisdom and divine trust. His closest companions urge him to flee like a bird to the mountains, offering what sounds like perfectly reasonable advice in the face of genuine danger. Yet David's response reveals a profound spiritual truth: sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is stand still. This passage challenges us to examine where our trust truly lies when foundations shake and arrows fly. Are we anchored in circumstances that can change, or in the unchanging character of God?

The psalm teaches us that fear often disguises itself as logic, and well-meaning voices can unintentionally lead us away from God's will. David's refusal to run wasn't stubbornness, it was faith. He understood that the safest place isn't a location, it's a position of trust in the Lord. When we face our own trials, we're invited to look upward before we look around. God isn't pacing heaven in panic; He's seated on His throne, watching with precision and purpose. Our testing isn't random, it's refinement. The pressure we feel may be evidence that God is working, not withdrawing. This psalm speaks directly to our modern anxieties, reminding us that when everything feels unstable, we have a God whose throne never shakes.

## Key Takeaways:

1. Trust is a settled position, not an aspiration. David declared, "In the Lord I put my trust"—he was already there before crisis hit.
2. Not all advice that sounds wise is from God. Discern whether counsel is rooted in God's Word and submitted to His sovereignty.
3. Fear demands immediate reaction; faith often calls us to stand still. (Exodus 14:13)
4. The safest place isn't a location—it's a position anchored in the Lord. Our peace comes from His presence, not our circumstances.
5. Testing is refinement, not rejection. God tests what is precious to make us stronger.
6. Jesus drank the cup of judgment so we could receive the cup of salvation. We don't have to fear God's wrath because Christ absorbed it.

# 5-Day Devotional

## Day 1: Declaring Your Position in God

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*Reading: Psalm 11:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:7*

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**Devotional:** David begins with a declaration: "In the Lord I put my trust." This isn't wishful thinking—it's a settled position. Before the crisis hit, David had already checked into the hotel of Jehovah. He was anchored before the storm arrived. Where is your trust located today? Fear always dresses itself up as logic, offering reasonable-sounding advice that leads away from God's will. Not all counsel that sounds wise is from God. Sometimes well-meaning voices will try to protect your comfort when God is calling you to trust Him through discomfort.

**Reflection:** Examine where you've placed your trust. Are you running to God preemptively, or only when crisis hits? What "mountains of safety" are you tempted to flee toward instead of standing firm in God's presence?

## Day 2: The Throne That Never Shakes

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*Reading: Psalm 11:4; Isaiah 6:1-5; Habakkuk 2:20*

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**Devotional:** "The Lord is in His holy temple. The Lord's throne is in heaven." When everything around you feels like chaos, heaven is not scrambling. God is not pacing, wondering what to do next. He is seated—calm, sovereign, and in complete control. If God's throne were on earth, it could be overthrown, voted out, or corrupted. But because it is in heaven, it stands above every threat. God never has an emergency; He has purposes. While earthly kings rise and fall, the heavenly King remains enthroned. When foundations shake, don't start with panic or movement. Start with this question: Who is on the throne? That answer changes everything—your perspective, your peace, your decisions.

**Reflection:** How many times today have you paused to acknowledge God's presence? Set reminders to seek Him throughout your day.

## Day 3: Under the Watchful Eyes of God

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*Reading: Psalm 11:4-5; 2 Chronicles 16:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13*

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**Devotional:** "His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men." God isn't distant or disengaged. He watches with focused precision, like a refiner examining gold. He sees the arrow on the string before it's released. He knows exactly how much pressure you're under and how much you can bear. God doesn't test you to discover if you have faith—He already knows. He tests you so your faith can be revealed and refined. He knows the exact temperature needed to burn away self-reliance without destroying the gold of your faith. When you feel tested, don't interpret it as abandonment. You are under the careful, sovereign attention of God Almighty. Testing isn't rejection; it's refinement. God doesn't test you because you're strong—He tests you because He's making you strong.

**Reflection:** What current test might God be using to refine something eternal in you? How can you shift from viewing pressure as punishment to seeing it as purposeful refinement?

## Day 4: The cup Jesus Drank

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*Reading: Psalm 11:6-7; Matthew 26:36-42; Psalm 116:13*

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**Devotional:** David describes God's judgment: "Upon the wicked He will rain coals, fire and brimstone." In Scripture, the cup represents your assigned destiny. For the wicked, it's a cup of judgment. But here's where the gospel shines brilliantly. In Gethsemane, Jesus faced this very cup—the fire, wrath, and burning wind of God's justice against sin. "Let this cup pass from Me," He prayed. Yet He drank it fully. On the cross, Jesus absorbed the judgment we deserved so we could receive something entirely different: the cup of salvation. For believers, you don't have to fear the fire because Christ already bore it. You don't have to dread the cup of wrath because Christ already emptied it. Now you lift a different cup—the cup of salvation, overflowing with mercy.

**Reflection:** How does understanding what Jesus drank on your behalf change how you view God's judgment and your security in Him?

## Day 5: Living in the Light of His Countenance

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*Reading: Psalm 11:7; Numbers 6:24-26; Matthew 5:8; Colossians 3:1-3*

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**Devotional:** "For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness. His countenance beholds the upright." The ultimate reward isn't escape—it's God Himself. To have His countenance behold you means experiencing His face turned toward you in favor and attention. Like the moon, we have no light of our own. If we turn away from the Son, we become cold, dark, and lifeless. But when positioned toward Him, we reflect His glory. The advice of fear says, "Change your position—run!" But David knew that moving in fear meant stepping into shadows. By staying in trust, he remained in the light of God's countenance. When foundations are destroyed, the righteous don't run to terrain; they trust in the Lord. They fix their eyes on the seated King, not the bending bow. The presence of the King is better than the protection of any cave.

**Reflection:** Are you positioned to receive the light of God's countenance, or have you turned away in fear? What would change if you truly believed His presence is better than any earthly safety?

## Practical Applications:

Choose at least one of the following to practice this week:

1. **Audit Your Counsel**
  - a. Before giving advice this week, pause and ask: "Is this rooted in God's Word or my own fear/comfort?"
  - b. Journal about one situation where you need to seek godly counsel versus worldly wisdom.
2. **Practice "Standing Still"**
  - a. Identify one situation where you feel pressure to "do something now."
  - b. Instead of reacting, spend 15 minutes daily in prayer, asking God if He's calling you to move or to stand.
  - c. Memorize: Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God."
3. **Redirect Your Gaze**
  - a. When anxiety hits this week, practice David's response:
  - b. Write down your fear/circumstance
  - c. Next to it, write a truth about God's character or position (He is seated, He sees, He is righteous, etc.)
  - d. Pray through that truth
4. **Release Vengeance**
  - a. If you're holding onto bitterness or the desire for revenge, write out Romans 12:19 and pray it daily.
  - b. Actively choose to trust God's justice instead of seeking your own.

## Small Group Guide:

### Discussion Questions:

#### Part 1: The Voices of Fear (Verses 1-3)

1. David's friends gave logical, seemingly wise advice to flee. Why can well-meaning counsel sometimes lead us away from God's will?

Follow-up: How do we distinguish between godly wisdom and fear-based reasoning?

2. Brody stated: "Fear always dresses itself up as logic in a crisis." Can you think of examples from your own life or current events where fear masqueraded as common sense?

3. Read Matthew 16:22-23 (Peter rebuking Jesus). How can we avoid giving advice that "values comfort more than calling"?

What questions should we ask ourselves before offering counsel to others?

## Part 2: Foundations Shaking (Verse 3)

4. "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" This question reflects our cultural moment. What "foundations" feel like they're crumbling in our society today?

5. Brody contrasted two responses: Daniel opening his windows to pray (Daniel 6) versus fleeing in fear. What does it look like practically to "open your windows and pray" in your current circumstances?

6. Where in your life are you tempted to believe you're too small, too alone, or too powerless to make a difference?

## Part 3: God's Position & Perspective (Verses 4-5)

7. David redirects attention from earthly chaos to heavenly order: "The Lord is in His holy temple. The Lord's throne is in heaven." How does remembering God's position change our perspective on our problems?

8. Brody emphasized that God is "seated"—calm and in control. What situations in your life feel out of control? How does this image of God seated on His throne speak to those situations?

9. "His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men" (v. 4). Brody taught that God tests what is precious, not what is worthless. How does understanding testing as refinement rather than rejection change how you view current trials?

## Part 4: Justice & Judgment (Verses 6-7)

10. David found comfort in God's justice rather than taking matters into his own hands. Where are you tempted to seek personal vengeance or "even the score"?

How does Romans 12:19 ("Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord") free you from that burden?

11. Brody connected the "cup" of judgment in verse 6 to Jesus drinking the cup of God's wrath at Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39). How does the gospel transform our understanding of judgment?

12. "For the Lord is righteous. He loves righteousness. His countenance beholds the upright" (v. 7). What does it mean to experience God's face turned toward you rather than away from you?

### Further Discussion Questions:

- David's friends offered sincere but spiritually flawed advice to flee. When have you received well-meaning counsel that contradicted what God was calling you to do, and how did you discern the difference?
- Brody states that 'fear always dresses itself up as logic in a crisis.' How can we distinguish between wise caution and fear-driven decision making when facing urgent circumstances?
- David declared 'in the Lord I put my trust' before the crisis intensified, not during it. What spiritual disciplines can help us build preemptive trust in God rather than waiting until we're in the midst of trials?

- Brody warns that 'sometimes people who love you unintentionally try to protect you outside of the will of God because they value your comfort more than your calling.' How do we balance receiving counsel from trusted people while remaining obedient to God's specific direction for our lives?
- When the foundations are shaking around us, David looked vertically to God's throne rather than horizontally to earthly solutions. What practical steps can we take to maintain a vertical perspective when our circumstances feel overwhelming?
- Brody explains that God tests the righteous not to discover if we have faith, but to reveal and refine it. How does understanding this purpose change the way you respond to trials and pressure in your life?
- David's friends asked 'If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?' but the psalm shows the righteous start by beholding God rather than doing. Why is it so difficult to simply be still and trust rather than immediately taking action?
- Brody states that 'the safest place in the world is not a location but a position—a life anchored in the Lord.' What areas of your life are you tempted to find safety in circumstances rather than in God's presence?
- Jesus drank the cup of judgment described in Psalm 11 so that believers would receive the cup of salvation instead. How does meditating on this substitution affect your confidence when facing opposition or persecution?
- Brody, while teaching warns against giving advice that leaves out the power of God, even with good motives. How can we ensure that the counsel we offer others is rooted in Scripture and submitted to God's sovereignty rather than merely human wisdom?

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