**Crumbling Foundations and Steady Faith**

*Psalm 11*

**Introduction**

1. **Romans 15:4** – patience and comfort offered by God and gleaned from the study of OT.
   1. Need – even in faithful pursuit of God there is hardship, and uncertainty – Satan does not rest.
2. David is a man after God’s own heart, and certainly grappled with temptations to despair as he sought God faithfully through various times of injustice and danger.
3. **Psalm 11** – a Psalm of David reflecting on such a time of hardship, injustice, danger, uncertainty, and adversity, yet finding steadiness with faith in God.
4. Do we not have times where we or another asks, ***“If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”*** Learn from David!
5. Historical Context
6. Inscription – ***“A Psalm of David”*** – reflects on a time in David’s life.
7. Content – **(v. 3)** – a time of upheaval and injustice – reliable things which provide confidence and safety have been destroyed – law, order, righteousness, justice, piety, etc.
   1. There is no specific event mentioned within the Psalm or its inscription to provide certainty.
   2. Many suggestions have been made – mostly regarding to general times of such destroyed foundations in David’s life – (1) the pursuit of his life by king Saul, (2) the treasonous conspiracy and usurpation of the throne by his son Absalom.
8. Two occasions in particular seem to fit especially well:
   1. NOTE: the Psalm reflects David’s refusal to flee, as well as his understanding that the Lord ***“tests the righteous” (v. 5).***
   2. **David’s life endangered while he is Saul’s armorbearer and commander:**
      1. After sinning against God by sparing the Amalekites, God’s Spirit departs from Saul, and he is given a distressing spirit. Saul is advised to bring in a skilled musician to sooth him, and David is chosen (**1 Samuel 16**). (David has been anointed as king to succeed Saul)
      2. The Philistines fight with Israel, and David defeats the champion Goliath with God’s help. (**1 Samuel 17)**
      3. Saul makes David a commander over the men of war, and David finds military success as God is with him. Saul grows jealous of David as the people show him great honor, and he attempts to pin David to the wall with a spear. (**1 Samuel 18:1-16**)
         1. **1 Samuel 18:11** – David escaped twice.
         2. **1 Samuel 18:16** – the people love David.
      4. Saul seeks to kill David by giving him his daughter Michal as a wife and requiring 100 foreskins of the Philistines as payment of the dowry. David succeeded in doing so, and Saul’s plan failed. (**1 Samuel 18:17-30**)
      5. **Psalm 11** – After Saul makes attempts at David’s life his friends could have made the suggestions here.
         1. It could have been reported to David concerning Saul’s intentions in requiring 100 Philistine foreskins as the dowry.
         2. **1 Samuel 18:26** – it pleased David – i.e. rather than him fleeing responsibility.
   3. **David being pursued by Saul, and is approached by Gad the prophet in the stronghold of Adullam:**
      1. David takes Michal as his wife, and Saul later seeks his life again. Michal aids David’s escape. (**1 Samuel 19)**
      2. Saul’s son, Jonathan, and David make a covenant together, and Jonathan warns him of Saul’s intentions to kill him. David escapes. **(1 Samuel 20**)
      3. David receives holy bread from Ahimelech the priest in his flight from Saul and flees to Gath (Philistine city) where he plays a mad man when it is discovered he is the David who had great victories over the Philistines. **(1 Samuel 21**)
      4. David takes refuge in the stronghold of the cave of Adullam, and his family finds refuge in Moab. (**1 Samuel 22:1-4**)
         1. **1 Samuel 22:5** – Gad the prophet tells David to get out and go to Judah (a place of great danger for him). David obeys.
      5. Saul kills Ahimelech, 85 priests, and Nob, the city of the priests – men, women, children, nursing infants, animals – for aiding David (though they did not even know he fled from Saul). (**1 Samuel 22:6-19)**
      6. The city of Keilah is attacked by the Philistines, and David inquires of the Lord and He tells David to go save it. David’s men are afraid, he inquires of the Lord again and He tells him to save Keilah. David saves the city, and Saul seeks him there to kill him, but God informs David and he is able to escape. (**1 Samuel 23**)
      7. **Psalm 11** – the words of David’s friends could have been spoken to him here when Keilah needed his aid.
         1. **1 Samuel 23:3** – afraid in Judah (because of Saul), and on top of that to fight at Keilah.
         2. Rather than disobeying God’s command to save Keilah, David trusted in him.
9. **Psalm 11**
10. Advice Given to David **(vv. 1-3)**
    1. Your only option is to flee like a bird to a stronghold in the mountain because enemies are aiming to destroy you **(vv. 1-2)**.
    2. Though righteous, what can you expect to do when the foundations are destroyed? **(v. 3)**
       1. **Foundations** – stand for truth, righteousness, justice, honor, integrity, law and order, faithfulness to God, appointed men to uphold such (king Saul), religious leaders (Ahimelech and prophets slain), etc.
       2. **What do you have to appeal to?**
       3. **(v. 2)** – enemies aren’t playing by the rules. They don’t fear God.
11. David’s Response of Faith **(vv. 4-7)**
    1. ***"In the LORD I put my trust” (v. 1)***
    2. The Lord is still on His throne **(v. 4):**
       1. **Holy** – He inhabits holiness, He is holy – while such is abandoned by others, it is engrained within His very nature and rule.
       2. **Heaven** – His rule is not affected by any of this – they can change the landscape of physical Israel, but they cannot alter God’s rule.
       3. **Eyes behold/test** – the occurrence of these events does not manifest God’s indifference, but is a reflection of God’s allowance in view of a test (implying there will be an answer for the actions taken).
    3. The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked **(v. 5):**
       1. ***“The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked” (NASB)***.
       2. Not only are the actions of the wicked **(v. 2)** being weighed by God, but David’s action are as well.
       3. **(v. 5b)** – if David turns to wickedness he will sever himself from God.
          1. **NOTE: David had opportunity to kill Saul twice but refrained from laying a hand on the Lord’s anointed, giving place to God’s wrath.**
          2. **Romans 12:19-21** – David understood this.
    4. The Lord will repay the wicked according to their deeds **(v. 6).**
       1. Their allotted portion from the Lord is not blessing, but destruction.
    5. The Lord will reward the righteous for their faithfulness **(v. 7).**
       1. The righteous will have God’s favor.
       2. They will be in fellowship with God – ***“The upright will behold His face.” (NASB)***
12. Application
13. God is the foundation that never fails.
    1. **Psalm 11:3** – society, men, circumstances, laws of men, all eb and flow – justice now will be injustice tomorrow, safety now will be nowhere to be found tomorrow – “Consistency, thou art a jewel.”
    2. David’s reflection late in his rule – **2 Samuel 22:1-4**
       1. **(v. 2)** – strong foundation – stable, consistent.
       2. **(v. 3)** – protection and deliverance.
       3. **(v. 4)** – worthy of praise – NEVER STOP WORSHIPING GOD – He is always worthy, and our soul depends upon such recognition.
    3. **Matthew 7:24-29** – we must build our lives on the foundation of His word.
14. Any difficulty we experience is allowed by God as a test of our faith.
    1. **Psalm 11:4-5** – not only are the wicked being observed by God with eyes intent on seeing recompense, but they are also watching the righteous to see whether they will maintain faith.
       1. **Sin is never the solution to our problems** – **Hebrews 3:12-13**
    2. **1 Peter 1:6-9** – it is necessary that our faith through which God’s power keeps us for the promise is tested to be found genuine.
       1. We must always be aware of what these things may be.
       2. Relational, physical, emotional, spiritual (temptation), financial, doctrinal conflict (error to be withstood), etc.
       3. **Satan would have us throw up our hands in surrender, falling in line with the new “order,” the foundations having been destroyed.**
       4. **God would have us see beyond what is in front of us to the spiritual realities, and His faithfulness** – **2 Corinthians 5:7**
    3. **James 1:2-4** – we should have such faith that rejoices in the trial knowing God’s ability to bless us by it.
15. No matter what may come, fellowship with God is our portion now and forever.
    1. **Psalm 11:7** – God’s active love is toward the righteous even now, and eventually they will see His face.
    2. **Philippians 4:4** – if we are in the Lord (sphere), we are in fellowship with Him, no matter what surrounds us we have cause to rejoice.
    3. **Psalm 23:6** – this is not simply in the future, but now and into the future of heaven. (“Or *To the end of my days*, lit. *For length of days*,” NKJV fn)
    4. **John 14:23** – His home is with the faithful NOW. (**cf. 2 Timothy 4:17** – the Lord stands with us.)

**Conclusion**

1. Like with David, we may be confronted with injustice, and undeserved adversity. The circumstances may be such that others would be inclined to succumb to discouragement of helplessness.
2. However, our faith in God must not waver. We must stand resolved as David to put our trust in the Lord.