

Sermon Outline: “When the Foundations Are Destroyed”

Text: Psalm 11

Psalm 11 is especially relevant for Christians living in a culture where biblical convictions are increasingly challenged. The psalm moves from fear and fleeing to faith in God's throne and judgment.

Central Thought

When everything around us seems to be falling apart, God's throne has not moved, His eyes still see, and His righteousness still stands.

1. WHEN TROUBLE COMES, THE TEMPTATION IS TO FLEE —Psalm 11:1–3

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

A. David's confidence

1. “In the LORD put I my trust”
2. David begins with faith, not fear.
3. His circumstances did not determine his confidence in God.

B. Others were telling him to run

1. “Flee as a bird to your mountain”
2. Danger was real.
3. Fear was understandable.
4. But fleeing was not the answer.

C. Christians face the same temptation today

1. Retreat from the world instead of standing for truth.
2. Remain silent when God's Word is challenged.
3. Compromise convictions to avoid criticism.
4. Abandon biblical principles because they are unpopular.
5. Allow fear of people to become greater than faith in God.

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- Trouble makes us want to run.
- Fear tells us to compromise.
- Faith tells us to trust God.
- “In the LORD put I my trust.” — Psalm 11:1

2. WHEN THE FOUNDATIONS ARE ATTACKED, WHAT SHOULD THE RIGHTEOUS DO?—Psalm 11:3

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

A. Foundations can be destroyed

1. Moral foundations
2. Biblical foundations
3. Family foundations
4. Respect for God's authority
5. Respect for truth
6. Respect for God's Word

B. The question is still relevant

1. What do we do when society rejects biblical morality?
2. What do we do when truth becomes relative?
3. What do we do when Christianity is mocked?
4. What do we do when our children are influenced by ungodliness?
5. What do we do when religious division increases?

C. The righteous cannot abandon the foundation

1. We do not change God's truth to fit society.
2. We do not surrender biblical convictions.
3. We continue teaching God's Word.
4. We continue obeying God's Word.
5. We continue living faithfully.

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When foundations are attacked:

- Don't surrender.
- Don't compromise.
- Don't panic.
- Don't abandon truth.
- Stand on God's Word.

3. GOD'S THRONE HAS NOT BEEN DESTROYED—Psalm 11:4

"The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven..."

A. Earth may be chaotic

1. Governments change.
2. Society changes.
3. Morality changes.
4. People change.
5. Churches can become discouraged.

B. But God has not changed

1. God is still on His throne.
2. God still rules.
3. God still sees.
4. God still judges.
5. God's authority has not diminished.

C. Our confidence is in heaven

1. We do not place our ultimate confidence in politics.
2. We do not place our confidence in human institutions.
3. We do not place our confidence in popular opinion.
4. Our confidence is in God.

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- Earth may be unstable—God's throne is not.
- People change—God does not.
- Society changes—God's truth does not.

4. GOD SEES WHAT IS HAPPENING—Psalm 11:4

"his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

A. Nothing escapes God's notice

1. God sees injustice.
2. God sees persecution.
3. God sees faithfulness.
4. God sees compromise.
5. God sees what happens privately as well as publicly.

B. Christians can become discouraged when evil seems to prosper

1. "Why doesn't God do something?"
2. "Why does God allow this?"
3. "Does God see what is happening?"

C. Psalm 11 answers: Yes!

1. God sees.
2. God knows.
3. God examines.
4. God will judge.

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- When you cannot see God working, remember:
- God sees everything.

5. GOD TESTS THE RIGHTEOUS—Psalm 11:5

"The LORD trieth the righteous..."

A. Difficult circumstances test our faith

1. Will we remain faithful?
2. Will we trust God?
3. Will we compromise?
4. Will we continue obeying when obedience is costly?

B. Trials reveal what is inside us

1. Pressure reveals character.
2. Persecution reveals conviction.
3. Temptation reveals priorities.
4. Difficult times reveal whether our faith is genuine.

C. Christianity is not merely believing when life is easy

1. Faith must survive difficulty.
2. Faith must survive criticism.
3. Faith must survive temptation.
4. Faith must survive uncertainty.

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- Trials don't merely test our circumstances.
- They test our faith.

6. GOD HATES WHAT IS EVIL—Psalm 11:5

"...but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth."

A. God is not morally indifferent

1. God loves righteousness.
2. God hates wickedness.
3. God distinguishes between good and evil.

B. Christians must maintain the same distinction

1. We must love what God loves.
2. We must reject what God rejects.
3. We must not call evil good.
4. We must not call good evil.

C. Love does not require compromise

1. We can love people without approving sin.
2. We can show compassion without abandoning truth.
3. Jesus was full of grace and truth — John 1:14.

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- Love the sinner.
- Never love the sin.
- Grace does not eliminate truth.

7. GOD WILL JUDGE THE WICKED—Psalm 11:6

"Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone..."

A. Evil will not have the final word

1. Wickedness may appear successful temporarily.
2. Evil may appear powerful.
3. The righteous may appear to be losing.

B. But God has appointed judgment

1. Acts 17:31
2. Romans 14:10–12
3. 2 Corinthians 5:10
4. Revelation 20:11–15

C. Therefore, Christians do not need revenge

1. We can leave vengeance to God.
2. Romans 12:19

3. We can continue doing what is right.
4. We can trust God's justice.

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- We don't have to win every argument.
- We don't have to punish every wrong.
- God will judge righteously.

8. THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SEE GOD—Psalm 11:7

"For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright."

A. God's character gives us confidence

1. He loves righteousness.
2. He loves those who practice righteousness.
3. He watches over His faithful people.

B. The ultimate goal isn't an easier life

1. It is remaining faithful to God.
2. It is being right with God.
3. It is ultimately being in God's presence.

C. Revelation 22:4

1. "And they shall see his face..."

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- The world may reject righteousness.
- God loves righteousness.
- The world may reject us.
- God sees the upright.

CONCLUSION:

1. WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?

A. Psalm 11 begins with the question:

1. "Flee as a bird to your mountain?"

B. And then:

1. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

C. The answer is found throughout the psalm:

1. The righteous can:
 - a. Trust God — Psalm 11:1

- b. Stand when foundations shake — Psalm 11:3
- c. Remember that God reigns — Psalm 11:4
- d. Remember that God sees — Psalm 11:4
- e. Endure God's testing — Psalm 11:5
- f. Reject evil — Psalm 11:5
- g. Leave judgment to God — Psalm 11:6
- h. Live righteously — Psalm 11:7
- i. Look forward to God's presence — Psalm 11:7

Final PowerPoint Slide

- WHEN THE FOUNDATIONS ARE DESTROYED...
- TRUST GOD.
- STAND FIRM.
- KEEP THE FAITH.
- LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY.
- GOD IS STILL ON HIS THRONE.
- Psalm 11:1 — “In the LORD put I my trust.”