

Our Topic today is Psalm 11. Looking to the Lords Righteousness.

We shall see there is no reason to be discouraged by our oppressors. Rather there is a rest in Him.

Let's Read the Psalm.

The structure of the Psalm is simple and yet outstanding. There are two clearly contrasted halves: **the first** gives the suggestions and advise of the timid counsellors, who see the here and now and what they can touch and feel; **the second**, is the brave answer of faith which looks up into heaven, which considers God.

But not only considers God; KNOWS God. They have reason to Love God, they rejoice they Have been made a child of God.

David knows His God He says elsewhere, *And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, Jehovah, have not forsaken those who seek You.*

Psalms 11:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. I put my trust in Jehovah; how can you say to me, Flee like a bird to the mountains;

David is declaring to his advisors and counselors, even his friends. " I PUT MY TRUST IN JEHOVAH"

Psalm 11: 1 2 3 David wonders at such advise- Flee to the Mountains, the arrows are already on the bow to shoot at you. **And what can we do? Psalms 11:3** If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? **What does this refer to? If the foundations are destroyed?** It refers to the corruption, and collapse of the Judicial system. the situation looked hopeless for those who love law and order, and therefore these advisors say, David should seek safety in fleeing to the mountains. But he felt differently about it.

But David is unmoved and steadfast trusting His God. After all is God only the God of the mountains? Is He not the God of the Valleys as well. Is He not a very present help in a time of trouble? All through the Psalms we see David in trouble and difficult and even impossible situations. Yet He says time after time, "I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy." – "But I will hope continually and will yet praise thee more and more." David is discouraged and in great danger but what great faith trust and confidence He has in His Lord and God. Sometimes, even when we are prayinign our mind is filled with terrible distractions and unwanted thoughts. Even Though we our soul is disquieted and cast down, yet we must lift our song of praise whenever we can—"I will be glad and rejoice'— We can draw near to the Lord by faith. Its never by feelings. It is always by faith we come. How strong Davids Faith was. How confident He was in His Lord.

His counsellors strongly advise flee to the mountains. Can't you see the terrible danger, what use is your religion? It's useless against this! Should David listen to the advice of many counsellors and friends, (*well would you call one a friend who gives such advice?*) or should he listen to the reasoning's of His mind as he lays on His bed? Surely in the night seasons there is a flood of terrible thoughts, suggestions, Ideas. Or rather should He listen to the Whisperings of His heart?

When we are in pressing circumstances – We need to seek The Lord. He will not forsake His children who seek Him. He watches over those who put their trust in Him. You will keep *him* in perfect peace, whose mind *is* stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in Jehovah forever; for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength.

We are not sure the exact danger he was facing most favour that either David fleeing from Saul, or the rebellion of Absalom. I mention this because this was a serious life threatening situation. We could say the more dangerous a situation is the more we need to trust and rely upon the Lord. To place ourselves in His able hands. He knows God is His protector and God is His avenger. He is so aware of the Lord that His faith is unwavering and unshaken.

Psalms 11:4 Jehovah is in His holy temple; Jehovah's throne is in Heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids examine the children of men. "*The Lord trieth the righteous:*" he doth not hate them, but only tries them. They are precious to him, and therefore he refines them with afflictions. None of the Lord's children may hope to escape from trial, nor, indeed, in our right minds, would any of us desire to do so, for trial is the channel of many blessings.

Rather He believes that Jehovah, the righteous King, though He tries His servants, does not forsake them. Not the righteous, but the wicked have need to fear. The Light from heaven dispels the darkness that surrounds Him and the Light from heaven gives Him hope unto salvation. Jehovah is in His holy temple, Jehovah's throne is in heaven. When our eyes are on the state of things in this world, it is always good to lift up your eyes higher, to the state of things in Heaven. If Davids eyes were only on the state of things in this world, He would have seen no possible way of deliverance from the danger that surrounded Him. This was not his practise, when it seemed that the worlds justice was trodden underfoot, He reflects that God is in Heaven Perfect unchanged.

When, we see and hear, deceit, deviousness, treachery, cruelty, violence, and extortion, reigning all around us; when all things are thrown into disorder and darkness by injustice and wickedness, **let faith serve as a lamp to enable us to behold God's heavenly throne.** David's perspective was God's throne in heaven, the symbol of His royal rule and authority to judge. There he visualized Yahweh sitting in perfect control over the nation. Because of this He could take courage.

Psalms 11:5 The LORD trieth the righteous: **but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.** why, then, shall I flee from these wicked men? If God hates them and is against them, I will not fear them. I need not fear those who God is against.

Look at what happened to Haman - And all the king's servants, that *were* in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did *him* reverence.

Haman was very great in the palace, But the Lord caused Him to loose favour, Esther had exposed Him, the King was exceedingly angry. They cover Haman's face and start taking Him away. Some of the Kings servants that previously trembled with fear at Haman now say King the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, we suggest the gallows for Him. So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordacai. But that's not all the next day Haman's 10 sons are hanged. Because they were enemies against the people of God.

Just what v 6 says. **Psalms 11:6** Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

It is true that it may be that it seems that the wicked prosper. That God delays His judgement. Yet make no mistake the hour of vengeance will come. When the weather is very calm and most serene, suddenly there raises a storm of hail or violent showers of rain; in the same way, vengeance which will be inflicted on the wicked will come suddenly, so that, when they shall be indulging in merrymaking, and all sorts of enjoyment and drunk with their pleasures, and *"when they shall say, Peace and safety, sudden destruction will come upon them."*

David alludes to the destruction of Sodom and Gomora. May the wicked meet the fate of Sodom, so often mentioned as the typical example of signal judgment upon awful and defiant sin.

Upon the wicked there awaits **A horrible tempest** – that is translated - "the spirit of terrors." Never forget God will eventually punish all those who oppose His will. ***this shall be the portion of their cup***, which will be measured out to them in proportion to their sin. which God, in righteous judgment, has appointed for them; and which they shall all drink of, and drink the very dregs of it.

But not so the righteous, not so the upright in heart.

Psalms 11:7 For the righteous Jehovah loves righteousness; His face looks on the upright. *"For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness."* It is not only his office to defend the upright and righteous, but it is His nature to love them. He would deny himself if he did not defend and love the just.

Think about it... When Grace works in us making us righteous, we are transformed into His image. We become and grow to be more and more like our Lord.

The eternal Watcher who never slumbers; whose eyes never know a sleep, beholds us the righteous, He sees His own image. He will never deny Himself, and not defend the Just. How it blesses His heart to defend His own blood bought children.

God sees each of His adopted children as clearly and as perfectly as if there were no other creature in the universe. He sees us always; he never removes his eye from us; he sees us entirely, looking into the recesses of the soul as readily as the glancing of the eye. **Is this not this rich ground of confidence?** and an abundant answer to the constant barrage of despondency and danger?

My danger is not hidden from him; he knows my limit, and I may rest assured that he will not let me to perish when I rely alone on him. Why then, should I take the wings of the timid bird, and flee from the dangers which beset me.

his countenance doth behold the upright; whom wicked men secretly shoot at, God looks with pleasure upon them, and takes delight in them, and takes care of them, protects and defends them, and in the end saves them.

Yes, I know the Lord is for the Righteous. But what can I do when I feel so discouraged. When I can't feel the Lords Presence.

How do we sense the nearness of the Lord? First of all, there are no special feelings apart from our normal emotions. These are normal emotions in every person is what the Lord uses for us to perceive Him, but they are variable, People may be assured and grateful and indebted to the Lord, and relieved and a wide range of emotions. Yet on the other hand they may be walking closely to the Lord and yet feel nothing. So feelings and sensations are variable, and God would have it so, we're not always going to be confident and rejoicing and feeling full and assured. They are variable.

The most vital rule of all, these feelings, any awareness of God's nearness or presence **is by faith,** everything, dear friends, is by faith. **Ephesians 3:17** that Christ may dwell in your hearts, by faith.

The Thought life is so important to the believer. And those very well-known words, Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, honest, just pure, lovely, of good report, if there be any virtue, any praise, think, on these things. **Philippians 4:8.** These are the things that should occupy our minds. Then, these feelings of joy and happiness and gratitude and relief and love for God can respond to those thoughts.

So, what do we do when the opposite thoughts come unwanted thoughts. We have a kind of a mental list of things that are wholesome to think upon. **The apostles list Philip 4:8** We can even have a written list. Often when we start thinking on Wholesome things our feelings

correspond. We see this in Psalms over and over David starts downcast and despondent, and by the end He is praising the Lord for His goodness. Things change when He begins to focus on the attributes of God. We consider these things that are true, honest, right, pure, lovely, and good and reason with yourselves about them, in order to put them into practice. I will trust in the Lord, I will rejoice in the Lord, I will look to the Lord and not be moved.

What would be some of these things to think upon.

God sees and observes everything

Psalm 11:4 *The LORD is in his holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven: His eyes behold, His eyelids try, the children of men.* His eyes behold us he eternally watches over us, His eyes never sleep nor slumber. He notices all our doings and even all our thoughts. Such comfort comes to think who it is that is watching over me.

2 Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.* the eyes of his mercy and goodness, of his care and providence, His eyes see the whole earth.

He observes me, he is watching me. As I reflect upon this – I'll be inspired to spend more time reading and meditating on The Scripture. On the other hand when I realise His eyes know and see, all my doings and even my thoughts I'll be less likely to sin. There will be a strong sense of security and safety, The Lord is watching over me. A Gratitude. That He sees and that He cares for me. A realisation that He cares for me

Hearer. His ear is not deaf nor His arm short

Psalms 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Our Lord hears our cries. **How can, I be sure?** **Hebrews 4:15-16** *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Psalms 116:2 *Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.* The Lord is not deaf, audience is granted by the blood of Jesus. When I begin to grasp this privilege I'll pray much. Gratitude will flood my heart.

Protector.

Psalms 91:1-2 *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*

He defends and protects his people, against the assaults of the devil. He directs all that happens to me, he knows my limits and my weaknesses. He will not allow me to be in a situation that would destroy me spiritually. *He directs us to Christ, in whom is strength, as well as righteousness; he strengthens us by his Spirit, his promises, word, and ordinances.* Gill.

As David pens it **Psalms 16:8** I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Interceder. Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Some think the Lord is making specific intercession for us by vocal prayer and bended knee, as in the days of his flesh on earth; but rather this has to do with what He has done and accomplished for us. by the appearance of his person for us, by the presentation of his sacrifice.

The writers of old put it like this that through the perpetual vigour of his perfect offering and atoning death. He holds his people in eternal life. It's his presence which intercedes and his glorified scars that reflect his work. His mere presence in the presence of God is a constant ongoing intercession for his people, but he is my interceder. I'm on his heart and presented to the mind of God, the Father constantly. Remember He is constantly at the right hand of the Father The Father sees Him constantly. Sees the scars on His hands and side. Scars that speak of His great Love for His children. Scars that speak for us. Scars that show the fervour of His love for us. His scars show that our debt is paid in full. Our Lord who paid our Debt. We are free. Justice is satisfied. On earth I may be surrounded by walls of Stone, cages of Iron bars. But just Look up to Eternity. Our future is secure. We are forgiven we are saved, We are pardoned and free. We have been saved from our sins. And on top of that He cares for my daily bread. He cloths the Lilies of the field, how much more will He cloth me. He cares for the Birds of the air. **Matthew 10:29** Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Therefore, do not fear, you are of more value than many sparrows. The care of God extends from now to Eternity. **Romans 8:32** Truly He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? With the gift of Gifts, **all temporal good things**, needful and convenient. **all spiritual blessings**, a justifying righteousness, pardon of sin, sanctifying grace, adoption, and eternal life: and all "freely", in a sovereign way, according to his own good will and pleasure.

In heaven the blessed multitude have entered into pure, complete, and eternal peace. But even now every believer has a foretaste of this great peace. Are they not blessed in heaven because they are with the Savior, dwelling where he is, and beholding his glory? And do not Christians now enter into glory by beholding Him with the eye of faith? **Philippians 4:7** *And the peace of*

God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Even now our minds are kept in perfect peace, being stayed upon God.

Have you received the gift of all Gifts? Do you know your sin is pardoned. This is so much more valuable than the temporal good things for this life on earth.

As I come to a close a reminder. These are the things that must fill our minds, these are the things that dispel darkness. These are the things that bring comfort. What a lesson we learn from David. We too can say. I will trust the Lord. I will look to the Lord.

I close with these words. As we hold sweet communion with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ the PEACE of God will be with us. Yes, blessed be God, these are the earnest (a deposit and guarantee of the fulfillment of His promise) and foretastes of that blessedness which is begun on now earth and perfected in heaven.

Amen.