

WHAT DO THE RIGHTEOUS DO?

PSALM 11 • SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 • CRAIG REES

Key Idea: When the foundations are attacked, the righteous remain confident in God, examine their motives, and focus on the eternal.

Key Scripture: Psalm 11; 1 Samuel 26; Isaiah 28:16; Ezekiel 13:14; 30:4; Micah 1:6; Psalm 102:25; John 10:15-17; 13:37; Romans 15:20; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Timothy 6:18-19; Hebrews 11:10; Revelation 21:14, 19

1. **In the Old Testament, foundations were laid down, an act that symbolizes something spiritually significant. Read John 10:15-17, Ephesians 2:20, and 1 Corinthians 3:10-11.** How do we 'build with care' on the foundation of Christ?
2. **When the Psalmist talks about foundations being destroyed, he's talking about things consecrated to God for God's glory coming under attack.** What do you consider to be 'foundations' under attack in our nation? The world? Commit the items you identify to God in prayer for the next seven days.
3. **The Psalmist does not allow disappointment to rise to the level of despair but remains confident in God.** How do you deal with disappointments? How do disappointments affect you emotionally and spiritually? What do you do to overcome disappointments and regain joy for life?
4. **Self-confidence and confidence in God are not the same thing. In Scripture many heroes of the faith struggled with inadequacy and felt ill-prepared for the challenge that faced them. History shows that their awareness of what they lacked proved a great foundation for a display of divine confidence in crisis.** Can you think of a time when you lacked confidence, felt ill-equipped and unprepared for a challenge you were facing but God carried you through it? What did that experience teach you about having 'confidence in God'?
5. **David got in trouble when his self-confidence caused him to act and speak before he discerned. Solving his confidence in crisis was a constant battle David would face.** Would you define yourself as self-confident? In what ways does your self-confidence cause issues for you? What can you take from David's example that will help you have 'divine confidence in crisis'?
6. **Psalm 11:4 says that God examines the righteous. Medieval Italian philosopher and theologian, Thomas Aquinas said that theology is 'taught by God.' Ideology, defined as a system of ideas and ideals, is formed through the land we live in, the people we live among, the activities we engage in, and the experiences we have.** How do you allow your ideology to be examined by God? Recognizing that we do not always see things as God does, what steps do you take to deepen your knowledge of God Himself?
7. **In Psalm 11 the wicked destroy the foundations and in the prophetic books God is said to bring down the foundations of nations (using secondary agents to do so).** How should the realities behind 'foundations coming down' play into the righteous discerning what is happening in our world today? What would an inappropriate response look like? What would be appropriate?
8. **Read 1 Timothy 6:18-19. When the foundations are attacked the righteous act wisely when they focus on the eternal foundations of their faith that are never shaken. The hallmark of an eternal focus is that during our trials, we are not fighting to control ourselves but freely praising God.** How easy is it for you to praise God in a trial? What are some of the eternal foundations that could help you praise God during in a trial?