

Psalm 11 (NASB)

**In the LORD I take refuge;
How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain;
For, behold, the wicked bend the bow,
They make ready their arrow upon the string
To shoot in darkness at the upright in heart.
If the foundations are destroyed,
What can the righteous do?"**

**The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven;
His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.
The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked,
And the one who loves violence His soul hates.
Upon the wicked He will rain snares;
Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.
For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness;
The upright will behold His face.**

Notice that lines 2-6 of this psalm are the words of people who fear that the righteous are powerless against the wicked. The psalmist, however, asserts that the Lord will take care of him. What gives the psalmist such certainty and faith? Consider what the psalmist believes: (1) God is enthroned in heaven; He is King; (2) God sees everything that we endure, and He's not a passive observer. God watches over us intently; (3) God tests everyone, and He hates those who violate the righteous; (4) God will severely punish those who are wicked; (5) God Himself is righteous; (6) God will make Himself known to those who are upright.

Do we believe those things? If we do, it will change the way we live. We will be able to face difficulties with courage, and we will choose to live uprightly knowing that our path will lead us into the presence of God. Even though it may look like we're losing, we can know with assurance that our God wins. While I believe all these things, it's not always easy to shrug off the assaults of the wicked and to simply place my trust in God. I know that I should, so I keep praying that God will give me more strength, more endurance, and more faith so that, like this psalmist, I can always take refuge in the Lord.

In Him,
Patrick Barber