

Three Pillars of Christian Courage

1. Holy Contempt for Cowardly Counsel

“In the LORD I take refuge...” –Psalm 11:1a

**“Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee”
The plea of sinners who know they need a mighty Savior.**

**“In the LORD I take refuge;
how can you say to my soul,
Flee like a bird to your mountain,
for behold, the wicked bend the bow;
they have fitted their arrow to the string
to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart;” –Psalm 11:1-2**

“...whoever is not with Me is against Me.” –Matt 12:30

**“...while we were enemies
we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son...” –Ro 5:10**

**“...if the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?” –Psalm 11:3**

“In the LORD I take refuge...” (Psalm 11:1)

“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.” –Psalm 18:1-2

1. Holy Contempt for Cowardly Counsel (application)

When tempted by fear to abandon your royal responsibilities and

“flee like a bird to YOUR mountain;”

take refuge in the LORD & ask Him:

“Please build on the foundation of Christ in me a pillar of

holy contempt for cowardly counsel.

Help me cultivate a

holy desire for courageous counsel

from Your holy word and from my church.”

2. Holy Conviction that the LORD Sees and Rules Over Everything

**“The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD's throne is in heaven;
his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.”**

–Psalm 11:4

**“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and
pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your
welfare.”**

–Jer 29:7

“[God] makes nations great, and he destroys them.” –Job 12:23

**“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid,
which is Jesus Christ.” –1 Cor 3:11**

**“The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD's throne is in heaven;
his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.”
–Psalm 11:4**

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” –Heb 12:28-29

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” –John 3:3:11

**“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”
–Eph 6:12**

**And “His eyes see, His eyelids test the children of man.”
–Psalm 11:4**

**“...do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.
Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”
–Matt 10:28**

2. Holy Conviction that the LORD Sees and Rules Over Everything (application)

When tempted by fear to hide from God's all-seeing eye,
take refuge in the LORD and ask Him:

“Please build on the foundation of Christ in me a pillar of
holy conviction that the LORD sees and rules over everything,
for my good and His glory, to fit His purpose for my salvation.”

3. Holy Confidence that the LORD is Just

“The LORD tests the righteous,
but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.”
—Ps 11:5

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved
by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than
gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and
glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

—1 Peter 1:6-7

“For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.” —Heb 12:6

“The LORD tests the righteous,
but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves
violence.”
—Ps 11:5

“...God is **holy,” --Psalm 99:9**

“...the LORD is **good,” --Psalm 100:5**

“...God is **love,” –1 John 4:8**

“The LORD tests the **righteous,
but his soul hates the **wicked** and the **one who loves
violence**.”** **–Ps 11:5**

“For he makes his sun rise on the **evil and on the **good**,
and sends rain on the **just** and on the **unjust**.” –Matthew 5:45**

**“The LORD tests the righteous,
but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves
violence.”** **–Ps 11:5**

“Beloved, **never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for
it is written, “**Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord**.”**
–Rom 12:19

**“Let him rain coals on the wicked;
fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of
their cup.”** **–Psalm 11:6**

**“The LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah
sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.” –Gen 19:24**

“In the LORD I take refuge...”

**“For the LORD is righteous;
he loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold his face.” –Psalm 11:7**

**“And without faith it is impossible to please him,
for whoever would draw near to God must believe that
he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” –Heb 11:6**

**“For the LORD is righteous;
he loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold his face.” –Psalm 11:7**

**“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we
may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” –Heb 4:16**

Three Pillars of Christian Courage (Psalm 11 application)

**Maintain a
holy contempt for cowardly counsel.**

**Hold fast to a
holy conviction that the LORD sees and rules over everything.**

**Take refuge in the LORD and ask Him:
“Please build on the foundation of Christ in me a pillar of
holy confidence that the LORD is just,
and because of Jesus, I shall behold His face.”**

Meditating on the Message:

Athanasius (c. 296–373) wrote,
*“whenever someone wants to stir up a lot of trouble for you,
have confidence in the LORD and sing Psalm 11.”*

As you consider the “**Three Pillars of Christian Courage**” found in this Psalm...

What did you learn about the importance of understanding that not only is the LORD in control of everything that happens to us, but that He has a good and **holy purpose** for ordaining even the most severe trials for His children?

How important is it for us to have holy confidence that the LORD is perfectly just in His **holy promise** to apply eternal justice to all people who reject Him?

What did you learn about the value of having a healthy, **holy contempt** for thoughts or advice that tempt us to seek salvation anywhere but in the LORD?

How might singing Psalm 11 help you **take refuge in the LORD** and resist temptations to:

- *Let fear rule your life?*
- *Withdraw from church life?*
- *Withdraw from difficult people?*
- *Put yourself over others, especially God?*
- *Withhold the gospel from your neighbors?*
- *Hold back from praising the LORD when life is hard?*
- *Abandon your royal responsibilities as co-heirs with Christ?*
- *Let fear of anything cause you to think God is less than everything?*
- *Disbelieve God’s promise that we can find joy in Him through our trials?*

How does Psalm 11 **preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to us** when we stumble in any of these ways?