



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

More Like You, LORD

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Psalm 11, 41, 101;

Today's Devotion is simply titled: "More Like You, Lord." Because that's really the cry underneath everything: *Lord, I want my heart to be like Yours. I want my house—the place You've entrusted to me—to look like Your house. I want my life to increasingly reflect Your life.* When we look at David in these psalms, we see that same longing. Even while he's being mocked, misunderstood, attacked, or betrayed, David keeps coming back to this desire: "Lord, let my character mirror Your character."

And this is why the psalms are such a gift. They touch the breadth of our spiritual experience—the ups and downs, the times of confidence, the moments of confusion, the seasons of sickness or betrayal, and the daily decisions to walk with integrity. Many believers only know a handful of comforting promises, and when the hard seasons come, their faith gets shaken because they never understood that God forms us in the difficult places. But when our walk is rooted in *Lord, transform me*, instead of *Lord, do what I want*, then even in the painful seasons we remain steady. These psalms remind us who God is, what He sees, and what He loves—and invite us to be formed into His likeness.

1. WHEN EVERYTHING SHAKES, REMEMBER WHO SEES AND WHO REIGNS (Psalm 11)

David begins Psalm 11 with a firm declaration: "*In Adonai I have taken refuge.*" Yet immediately there are voices mocking him: "*Fly like a bird to your mountain!*" The wicked bend their bows in the shadows, ready to strike those who are upright. And David voices the question many of us feel when life gets unstable: "*If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*" When everything we've depended on feels shaken—relationships, finances, health, security—what do we do? David answers not by fixing the problem but by lifting his eyes: "*Adonai is in His holy temple... His eyes behold... His eyelids examine the children of men*" (Ps 11:4–5). The Lord isn't distant. He's watching closely, testing, refining, seeing every hidden thing—including the arrows fired from the shadows.

What comforts David is not the absence of danger but the presence of a righteous God. God examines the righteous—not to condemn, but to refine—and His soul *hates* the love of violence because it contradicts His character. He loves righteousness because righteousness is who He is. Every facet of God—His justice, mercy, truth, forgiveness, and holiness—is perfectly balanced and fully good. And so, like a child who delights when their parent sees their character reflected in them, we long for the righteousness He loves to be formed in us. Holiness isn't cold or rigid—it's the fullness of God's love and purity shining in harmony. Our prayer becomes, "Take my heart and form it. Take my mind and transform it. Take my will and conform it to Yours."

2. WHEN YOU ARE FLAT ON YOUR BACK, GOD HAS NOT ABANDONED YOU (Psalm 41)

Psalm 41 opens with a beautiful truth: "*Blessed is the one who considers the poor and insignificant.*" The Lord is near to the overlooked. And when we walk in that same compassion, we walk in His likeness. But David quickly shifts from blessing to his own painful experience. He finds himself on a sickbed—weak, vulnerable, and surrounded by people who interpret his suffering as evidence that God has abandoned him. Some wait for him to die. Others speak kindly to his face but store up evil in their hearts. Even a close friend—"*the man of my shalom*"—has lifted his heel against him (Ps 41:10). David's suffering is not theoretical; it is physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual.

Yet even here, David does what the righteous do when the foundations feel destroyed—he cries out for mercy: "*Be gracious to me... heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.*" David acknowledges his

need, not just for physical healing, but for inner cleansing and restoration. And he clings to this truth: God upholds him in integrity and sets him before His face forever. The sickbed does not define him. The betrayal does not define him. The whispers do not define him. The Lord's delight in him defines him. And because Yeshua walked through rejection, slander, sickness, suffering, and betrayal, He meets us fully in our own pain. The One who was abandoned understands abandonment, and He promises to raise us up in His time.

3. LET MY HOUSE LOOK LIKE YOUR HOUSE (Psalm 101)

Psalm 101 is David's declaration of how he wants to rule the kingdom entrusted to him—but beneath it, it's a picture of how we want God's kingdom to rule our own hearts. David says, *"I will sing of lovingkindness and justice... I will walk within my house with integrity of heart."* The transformation begins in the hidden places—where no one else is watching. David commits that no "worthless thing," no cancerous influence, will be set before his eyes. A crooked heart must depart. Twisted behavior will not cling to him. What God hates, he hates. What God loves, he loves. He wants what flows from him to sound like the voice of God Himself.

Then David describes the kind of people he wants around him: the faithful, the trustworthy, the blameless—those whose character aligns with God's ways. He refuses to give space to slander, pride, deceit, or lies. And he recognizes that this is not a one-time decision but a daily one: *"Each morning I silence all the wicked of the land."* In the same way, we silence the wickedness in our own hearts every morning. The kingdom entrusted to us—our thoughts, our habits, our speech, our relationships, our homes—is meant to reflect the beauty of God's character. We pray, "Lord, make my house look like Your house. Make my heart look like Yours."

CONCLUSION

Today, we stand before the LORD and say, "Make me more like You." Not just in outward actions, but in inward transformation—formed, transformed, and conformed to His will. That is the heart-cry of true worship. If today you feel the shaking of your foundations...if you feel the sting of betrayal...if you feel the weight of hidden things in your house or your heart...if you're longing for the beauty of God's character to be reflected more fully in you...then draw near to the LORD. Yeshua does not meet you with condemnation but with compassion. He examines you not to shame you, but to refine you. He invites you to surrender what you've been holding, and to let Him breathe His life into you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What Does Ps. 11 teach us about responding when the "foundations" of our lives feel shaken?
2. How does understanding God's examination of our hearts change the way we view trials?
3. In Psalm 41, how do David's experiences on the sickbed speak to seasons where we feel abandoned or misunderstood?
4. What does Psalm 101 teach us about integrity in the hidden places of our lives—our "house"?
5. Where do you sense the Lord inviting you into deeper surrender so that His character can be formed in you?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, we come before You with hearts that long to reflect Your beauty. Shape us, refine us, and make us more like You. In the shaking, be our foundation. In weakness, be our strength. In the hidden places of our hearts and homes, let integrity and righteousness take root. Silence every voice in us that does not reflect Your kingdom. Conform our hearts, minds, and wills to Yours. Breathe on us by Your Spirit so that all who see our lives will see You living in us. We surrender afresh today. Make us like You, Yeshua. Amen.