

# Abide in Me

**John 15:4**  
*Bible studies for disciples  
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 10

The Week of January 7, 2024

*A Strategy for Sanity*  
**A Time for Confidence**  
Psalm 11

Welcome to 2024! The beginning of any new year is filled with prognostications about what to expect in the year to come. The speculations of many for 2024 are terribly foreboding. Cultural observers are anticipating a year of tumult and chaos. Some are even suggesting that the very foundations of our society are being uprooted. Amid such a gloomy forecast, it is easy to feel frightened and confused.

As Christians, we are neither indifferent to the concerns around us, nor are we to be thrown off course by the unstable winds that blow. Therefore, during the month of January, we are going to develop a strategy for survival built on trusting God and nurturing the kind of spiritual habits of heart and mind that will be the source of our hope and confidence. Let's begin with a look at Psalm 11 which anchors our confidence in God—who is enthroned in heaven.

## **OBSERVATION** (*What does the passage say?*)

Before meeting with your Growth Group, read through the passage at least twice and perform the following prompts:

- Place a  $\Delta$  over each reference to God, including pronouns.
- Circle *David* in the inscription and the pronoun *I* in verse 1 and draw a connecting line to both.
- Bracket off the entire piece of advice from David's friend[s] as denoted by the quotation marks.
- In the left margin of the brackets write, *Well-intentioned Advice from a Friend*.
- Circle the conditional *if* in verse 3.
- Underline the phrase, *the foundations are destroyed*. In the right margin record the meaning provided in Sunday's message.
- In the left margin of verses 4-7 write, *David's God-centered Response*.
- Place a square around the word *behold* in verse 2 and verse 7. Draw a connecting line between the two.
- Double underline all the things the Lord does in verses 4-7.

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple  
To the choirmaster. Of David.

<sup>1</sup> In the Lord I take refuge;  
how can you say to my soul,  
"Flee like a bird to your mountain,  
<sup>2</sup> 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;  
<sup>3</sup> if the foundations are destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?"

<sup>4</sup> The Lord is in his holy temple;  
the Lord's throne is in heaven;  
his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord tests the righteous,  
but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.  
<sup>6</sup> Let him rain coals on the wicked;  
fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.  
<sup>7</sup> For the Lord is righteous;  
he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright shall behold his face.

**Icebreaker:** What is the best piece of advice you've ever received? How about the worst? What were the consequences of either? (Bonus points for humor!)

**INTERPRETATION** (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. In order to care for him, David's friend[s] were giving him their best advice (vv. 1a-3). What concerns might have motivated them accordingly?
2. Would David have been wrong if he followed their advice and fled? Why or why not?
3. Instead of fluttering away, what stands out to you in David's strategic response?
4. What can be learned about God's character from this psalm? What is He like?
5. What does the Lord do on behalf of His people?

6. How can God hate the wicked and still love the world so much that He gave His Son to die?

7. The final line of this psalm captures the promise of beholding the face of God. What does this mean?

**APPLICATION** *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

8. Read a parallel passage in Psalm 55:6-8:

6 And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!  
I would fly away and be at rest;  
7 yes, I would wander far away;  
I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah  
8 I would hurry to find a shelter  
from the raging wind and tempest."

What situations cause you to want to run away from it all?

9. When do you find yourself most tempted to take control of your own life? Do you think it's sinful to trust in our own ability to control? Why or why not? Are you struggling with that now?

10. How do you find comfort and help during times of chaos or crisis that God is still on His throne and in complete control?

11. What challenges are you facing right now that are calling you to locate your confidence in God? Take time to pray about those challenges.

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