



#### Getting Started:

- Would you rather everyone you love forget your birthday or everyone you love sing “Happy Birthday” to you for 24 hours straight?
- Would you rather master every musical instrument or every type of sport?

#### Going Deeper:

- What is God showing you this week as you read his Word and pray?
- What decisions or life struggles do you need Biblical direction or prayer for?

#### Message Summary

Psalm 11:1-7

October 10, 2021

This week, we had the privilege of hearing from Pastor Jon McKanna, our North Main campus pastor and worship leader, as we continued our journey through the book of Psalms. This has been an opportunity for some of our elders, staff, and pastors here at Gateway to fill the pulpit. By doing this, we allow Pastor Josh to not only take a break from preaching, but it also helps train and equip others to preach and teach the Word. As we opened our time together, we learned there is no real historical background but this Psalm is written by David, and it is to the chief musician or choirmaster.

We see David once again being threatened by his enemies, which has become a familiar thing for him. But this time, we see that he is getting advice from what we assume are his friends. They are telling him to flee and find shelter. They truly seem to be concerned for his safety and well-being. We were then asked to think of a time in our life that we had to seek shelter or take cover. Many of us could relate to finding cover during a

tornado drill at school, a foul ball at a baseball game, or in a snowball fight as a kid. Others have had more serious reasons to find cover like a military deployment or an actual tornado like the one we looked at that hit Oklahoma in 2013. There are times in our lives today where we need to take cover and this is where David's advisors are coming from. They see the threat and want him to flee and take shelter.

But David does not take their advice. *"In the Lord I take refuge: This is David's first response. Right away he wants his advisers and everyone else to know something. David's telling us that he is trusting in God for protection in his current circumstances and he won't have it any other way. Also I want to note what isn't happening. David isn't saying he's going to be complacent. He's not settled in and comfortable where he is and therefore not moving."* Even though his friend's advice seems wise and the way to protect himself from the impending danger, David chose to trust God and continue to stay active in his life, refusing to hunker down and wait for the danger to pass. At this, we looked at how advice from friends or family can come when it is unwanted or it is not of God. Job's wife gives him seemingly unkind advice during a time of great suffering, which he doesn't take. Similarly, Nehemiah sees through the advice from a shut-in who sounds like he is trying to protect Nehemiah; but like Job, he chooses to ignore it.

The question we must ask ourselves is: Have we given advice to others even if they didn't ask for it? Just like Job's wife, the shut-in, and David's friends, we can be quick to give advice to those around us. *"But how often do we give bad advice to those around us because of our limited view and understanding of the situation? That's what is happening in our passage. David's friends have lost sight of God and are focused on the enemy or potential danger for David. So their advice isn't something for David to follow."* The same can be true when we intentionally seek advice from others. Even if they know us and we know them and the details of each other's lives, the advice may not be good advice. *"They have our best interest in mind when they give us advice. But...that doesn't mean it's the direction that God has for us to take."*

Continuing we looked at David's rhetorical question that many of us still ask, especially today. If the foundations are destroyed what can the righteous do? Or to say it a different way we may ask: Am I making a difference? What we were cautioned not to do is get wrapped up in the fighting, finger pointing, or anything else that causes division in our churches, families, and the world around us. How differently would things be *"If we took refuge in God alone and focused our eyes on him alone? What if we stayed focused on the work he's given us to do, on the fact that he's in control? Would our lives look any different than they do right now? Would our response to the situations we face look any different?"* David is reminding us and everyone in his day that God is still in control and is fully aware of his situation. He can continue to do what God has called him to do with confidence and trust him as he takes refuge in him.

Another great example of this kind of faith is found when Moses handed off the leadership of the Israelites to Joshua. After Moses passed, God himself reassured Joshua that he would be with him and he could take refuge in him at any time he needed to. *"Notice it wasn't confidence in a structure or system, it wasn't in man, it wasn't in their own talents, resources, or abilities...their confidence was in God alone. That truth is the same for us as well. We have to be sure that regardless of what it is we are facing, our confidence is in God alone to get us through. We have to remember how BIG our God is. We have to remember how faithful our God has been and will continue to be. We have to remember that he is always with us. We have to remember that he is the only person we can truly place our confidence in."*

Next, we see David comparing the wicked and the righteous. He says that God is testing the righteous. We learned that the word “test” here means to be examined or prove something. In this, we can find confidence when it seems like everything is falling apart. We can know that God is testing us but he is still in control, and we can still find refuge in him. *“As hard as it may be, we can ask God to work in us, to help us grow, as we see what he longs to do through our testing and proving. And while God is testing the righteous, he still sees the wicked and all they are doing. So David is remembering what the outcome will be for the wicked. They are God's enemy and they will not go unpunished. As David reminds himself of what's to come, no doubt his confidence continues to grow.”*

The cup of suffering mentioned sounds similar to the cup that Jesus would endure as the wrath of God would be poured out on him on the cross. He took on the wrath we deserve for our sin. *“Because we so often choose things contrary to God's word and contrary to his ways. We are not righteous because of the sin in our lives. Because of this we deserve the fire and sulfur and a scorching wind. But he (Jesus) drank the portion of our cup so we don't have to. Jesus suffered. Jesus tasted death and is now crowned with glory and honor.”* The wicked will have to drink from this cup as a penalty for their sins. But the upright will behold his face - Jesus' face. *“Because Jesus is our righteousness. If there is anything that we can look to and grow in our confidence, it's there. We can look to the cross and see what he has done. We can not only have confidence in him, we can take refuge in him.”*

## DISCUSSION & APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Take a moment to read our sermon text:

Psalm 11:1-7

After briefly reviewing the message summary, use these questions to further examine the sermon and to discuss how these truths apply to daily life, so we can “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jas.1:22). Based on your knowledge of the people in your life group, select the questions that will best help you frame the group's discussion of this sermon and sermon text.

## GENERAL SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the key message of these verses? Explain why you think this.
2. After hearing the message and reading the scriptures, what was your biggest takeaway and why?
3. In what ways do these truths, which were written thousands of years ago, apply today?
4. Which point in the sermon spoke to you the most? How did it affect you?
5. In what ways do these passages point to Christ? What can we share with others about him from what we just heard and read?

**First Read Psalm 11:1-7; Nehemiah 6:10-12; Deuteronomy 31:7-8; Joshua 1:5, 9; Mathew 26:39; Hebrews 2:9-10; 1 John 3:2**

**Questions From The Sermon:**

1. Talk about a time when you had to find cover. What were your emotions? Did you feel safe?
2. What causes David to seek advice? Who is he seeking this advice from?
3. What is their advice in the face of imminent danger? Do they feel they are giving the best advice?
4. How does David respond to their advice? What does this communicate to his advisors and us today?
5. Have you ever allowed fear to keep you from doing something? Was your fear validated or misplaced?
6. Why is his trust in God so powerful? In what way could taking shelter or hunkering down have been a bad choice?
7. How do we know David had put all his trust in God for his safety? How can fear keep us from doing what God has called us to?
8. How did Job and Nehemiah respond to unwanted advice? What had David's friends lost sight of in giving their advice?
9. Why must we be careful in giving or seeking out advice even from our closest friends and family?
10. What was David's rhetorical question to his friends? Why was he asking such a question?
11. How many times have you recently asked the question: "Am I making a difference?" -OR- "What is the point anymore?" Do you feel like you are facing a losing battle?
12. What if we took David's advice and chose not to take part in those times of fighting, finger pointing, or any other issues that cause division in our churches or families?
13. How is Joshua's story of faith in God during a time of fear and leadership similar to what we see in David's story?
14. Why is it important for us to remember that God is fully aware of all we are going through and we can take refuge in him while still doing his work?
15. What two groups of people do we see David contrasting? What does it mean that the righteous will be tested by God? What does God's testing allow us to do? What do we need to keep in mind when it comes to the wicked?
16. What is the cup of suffering? Why has Jesus already drank from this cup? Why won't the righteous drink from it? Who will drink the cup of suffering someday and why?
17. We learned that in the end the upright will be blessed. How will they be blessed and whose face will they see?

## ***The Challenge - Life Application***

- ☐ Read the passages used in this week's message. Write down any scriptures you need to be reminded of on sticky notes and place them around the house. Try to memorize as many as you can.
- ☐ Reflect on the message and ask God to give you his strength as you follow him.
- ☐ Pray that, as Christ-followers, we would reflect the change God has made in us.
- ☐ Go back and listen or watch the sermon if you missed it or you need to be reminded of its truths.

## ***Weekly Prayer Focus***

Pray for Our Church:

- Ask God to use us as instruments for His purpose and glory.
- Pray that we are a GOING church, proclaiming the gospel to the nations.
- Ask God to help each of us to live a life that reflects him.
- Pray for all of our campuses.
- Pray for our pastors and leadership here at Gateway.

Pray for Our City:

- The government and civic leaders
- Those in need in our community and the services that help them
- The fire and police departments
- Schools, students, and teachers

Pray for Our World:

- Pray for the Christ-followers in Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Cuba, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.
- Pray for all of those who are being persecuted in harm's way for the Kingdom.
- Pray that the message of Christ will reach all of mankind.

Pray for Life Groups at Gateway:

- Pray for those who are leading our groups.
- Pray that everyone involved in our groups would continue to be rooted in the Word and connected to each other.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers and that we will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for discipleship opportunities.