

# Psalms 11 & 12 – Trust, Care, & Share

Michael Silva / September 1, 2019

**Opening:** Hurricane Dorian

- Nothing like a hurricane to remind you that you are not in charge.
- ❖ Our passage today reminds us of who is in charge, the Lord, and we can hope in Him.

**Introduction:** The Book of Psalms - The hymnbook of the Bible.

1. In the Psalms we find real emotions and struggles being expressed to the Lord.
  - a) In the midst of those struggles we are reminded that God is **sovereign** and that regardless of our circumstances **He is worthy of praise**.
2. RECAP:
  - a) In **Psalm 1** we were reminded to **Sit, Stand, and Walk in the Word**.
  - b) In **Psalm 2** the Psalmist declared gospel message... **Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him**.
  - c) In **Psalms 3 & 4**... **Rest in the Lord w/ Gladness & Peace** - David shows us by example that if we will rest in the Lord he will bring us gladness of heart, peace, and rest.
  - d) In **Psalm 5** we saw David's example of **Seeking, Looking Up, Departing, & Worshiping**.
  - e) In **Psalms 6 & 7** we were exhorted to **Repent, Trust in Trials, and Love & Pray**.
  - f) In **Psalm 8** the key points were **God's name is Majestic, He is Mindful of us, the Messiah is coming to visit, and we have been given Management (Dominion/Stewardship)**.
  - g) In **Psalm 9-10** we were reminded that there is **Hope for the Hurting**.

**Our passage today is: Psalms 11-12 (NKJV):**

1. I've **summarized** our passage today **Trust, Care, & Share**.

**Psalm 11 Title**      To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

1. **To the Chief Musician** – A Psalm that was supposed to be sung in corporate worship as a nation.
2. Written by **David** – likely while he was on the run from King Saul, perhaps **1 Samuel 21-22**.

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**Psalm 11:1-3** <sup>1</sup> In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, “Flee as a bird to your mountain”? <sup>2</sup> For look! The wicked bend *their* bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. <sup>3</sup> If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?

1. Here David is apparently **repeating** what others have said to him. He questions them by asking How can you say to my soul...
  - a) In the years before he took the throne of Israel, David lived the life of a fugitive. He was constantly hunted by King Saul, and lived in constant danger. In such a time, his friends advised him, “**Flee as a bird to your mountain.**”<sup>1</sup>
    - i) The idea here is **run and hide** while you still can.
      - (1) That’s often the advice we hear or what we **try to tell ourselves**... Run away from your problems or ignore them.
      - (2) But that advice **never helps**, it just prolongs the problem, which in many cases can get worse with time.
    - ii) Personally, I got into some fights when I was a kid. I usually stood my ground and didn’t back down.
      - (1) But there was a time when a fight was about to break out and I felt I wasn’t going to win, so like a bird I flew, running all the way from the bus stop to the safety of my neighbor’s house...
      - (2) Yes, thankfully I was faster than the other kid.
    - iii) In David’s case he didn’t choose to **Flee** nor did he stand his ground to fight.
      - (1) Even though his friends warned that an attack was coming, their **bow** and were **arrow** ready.
      - (2) For David, he knew that the right answer was to just to **be still and trust** in the Lord.
  - b) David’s friends also asked, **If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?**
    - i) A hopeless declaration and their justification as to why David should flee!
    - ii) King Saul has abandoned his morals in killing the priest and in trying to pursue and kill David.
      - (1) If the **foundations** of their nation’s leader and his government were **destroyed** then **What can the righteous do?**
2. These circumstances remind us that we must be careful when giving our “two cents” / sharing our opinion with others.
  - a) Job’s friends tried to comfort Job... by accusing him of wrongdoing.
    - i) Eliphaz declared in **Job 15:17** <sup>17</sup> “**I will tell you, hear me; What I have seen I will declare,**

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<sup>1</sup> Guzik, D. (2013). [Psalms](#) (Ps 11:1). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.

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b) Instead, we are exhorted to pursue brotherly love toward one another.

i) **1 Thessalonians 4:9–12** <sup>9</sup> But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; <sup>10</sup> and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; <sup>11</sup> that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, <sup>12</sup> that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

3. So what we see here is that Verse 1 is David's response to these words from his friends.

a) He declares, "In the LORD I put my trust" **TRUST**

b) While the words of his friends were *understandable* in light of his circumstances, they were not the right words for David at that time.

i) You can receive godly counsel from other believers, but never let the words of others keep you from what you know in your heart God is calling you to do.

(1) All of Paul's friends told him not to go to Jerusalem, yet Paul went anyway because he knew that's where God wanted him.

**Psalm 11:4** <sup>4</sup> The LORD *is* in His holy temple, The LORD's throne *is* in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

1. To David, it didn't matter what was happening **around him** because he knew who sat **over him**... The LORD who *is* in His holy temple.

a) There was no temple on earth yet for Solomon hadn't yet built it. The LORD's throne *is* in heaven.

2. The word **test** was used to describe when **metals were tested by fire**.

a) Wiersbe: God's eyes penetrate into our hearts and minds (Heb. 4:12; Rev. 2:23). The Lord tests the righteous to bring out the best in them, but Satan tempts them to bring out the worst. When we trust the Lord in the difficulties of life, our trials work for us and not against us.<sup>2</sup>

**Psalm 11:5-6** <sup>5</sup> The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. <sup>6</sup> Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind *shall be* the portion of their cup.

1. I believe it's true that God loves the sinner but hates the sin. This is the reason why the Father sent the Son to earth.

a) **Romans 5:8** <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were

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<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). Be worshipful (1st ed., p. 51). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

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still sinners, Christ died for us.

- b) That said, no one should be complacent in their sin for the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.
  - i) And if they do not repent then judgment is certain to come... Fire and brimstone and a burning wind *Shall be* the portion of their cup.
    - (1) This is the judgment Sodom and Gomorrah experienced (Genesis 19).
    - (2) This is also the same kind of torment that is associated with hell.
    - (3) Jesus warned in **Luke 12:5** <sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!
    - (4) Also see Rev 19:20ff.

**Psalm 11:7** <sup>7</sup> For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

- 1. We are righteous because of what Christ has done for us.
  - a) **2 Corinthians 5:21** <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- 2. His countenance beholds the upright – He looks upon the righteous.
  - a) Priestly Blessing, **Numbers 6:24–26** <sup>24</sup> “The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’
- 3. And we are able to look upon Him as well... **Matthew 5:8** <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

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**Psalm 12 Title** To the Chief Musician. On An Eight-Stringed Harp. A Psalm of David.

- 1. David is the author and his circumstances are unknown.

**Psalm 12:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. <sup>2</sup> They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; *With* flattering lips *and* a double heart they speak.

- 1. Guzik: The essence of flattering lips is that they say what people want to hear. There are many such talkers today, even within the church; those who know the right answer for every occasion, but speak with no honesty or transparency of heart. The constantly speak what people hope to hear or what is assumed to be

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proper instead of their true thoughts, feelings, and deeds.<sup>3</sup>

2. In the original text instead of **double heart** it reads ‘a heart and a heart’, from which we get a **double heart**.
  - a) Jesus declared in **Matthew 6:24** <sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
  - b) The idea is that you can’t have a divide heart.
    - i) As we saw back in Psalm 9:1 – God wants our whole heart.
3. David, like Elijah, felt all alone, as though he was the only one left who trusted the Lord.
  - a) This is part of the spiritual warfare we face... Satan wants you to believe you are all alone.
  - b) BUT YOU ARE NOT!

**Psalm 12:3-4** <sup>3</sup> May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, *And* the tongue that speaks proud things, <sup>4</sup> Who have said, “With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips *are* our own; Who *is* lord over us?”

1. To **cut off** means to destroy or silence. The idea here being that their words would be silenced and that they can speak their harmful words NO MORE.
  - a) The wicked and proud declare **Our lips *are* our own; Who *is* lord over us?**
    - i) The answer is Jesus!
    - ii) **Philippians 2:9–11** <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Psalm 12:5** <sup>5</sup> “For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, Now I will arise,” says the LORD; “I will set *him* in the safety for which he yearns.”

1. In **Psalm 68:5** listen to how God is described, He’s... <sup>5</sup> A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, *Is* God in His holy habitation.
  - a) And in **James 1:27** we are instructed that <sup>27</sup> Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
  - b) God cares for those who are in need and sometimes He accomplishes that through the works of His children here on earth.

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<sup>3</sup> Guzik, D. (2013). Psalms (Ps 12:1–2). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.

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- c) Despite our difficulties, we are to look for ways to care for those in need. **CARE**
- i) This is one of the ways God helps us get our eyes off of our circumstances.
- ii) This is one of the ways we can find joy despite our circumstances.

**Psalm 12:6-8** <sup>6</sup> The words of the LORD *are* pure words, *Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. <sup>7</sup> You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever. <sup>8</sup> The wicked prowl on every side, When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.

1. The words of the LORD *are* pure words.
  - a) Spurgeon: “Give up no line of God’s revelation... Brethren, we cannot endure this shifty theology. May God send us a race of men who have backbones! Men who believe something, and would die for what they believe. This Book deserves the sacrifice of our all for the maintenance of every line of it.”<sup>4</sup>
2. The Lord will preserve them from this generation forever.
  - a) Courson: Highly esteemed philosopher, Voltaire, said: “In twenty years, Christianity will be no more. My single hand shall destroy the edifice it took twelve apostles to rear.” Twenty years later, the house in which he penned those words was purchased by the Geneva Bible Society and was used to publish and distribute the Word of God.<sup>5</sup>
  - b) We can have complete confidence in the Promises of God.
    - i) **2 Corinthians 1:20** <sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.
3. David closes we a reminder that we need to be watchful because the wicked prowl on every side.
  - a) There is danger all around us, but the Lord’s truth is always right in the center of everything.

### Conclusion: What’s the big take away from this passage?

1. David was sharing his faith.
  - a) He has provided an example for us to follow, to... TRUST, CARE, and SHARE.
2. Wiersbe:
  - a) God’s people are salt and light (Matt. 5:13–16). If there were more light in the land, there would be less darkness, and if we had more salt, there would be less decay.

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<sup>4</sup> Guzik, D. (2013). Psalms (Ps 12:6–7). Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.

<sup>5</sup> Courson, J. (2006). Jon Courson’s application commentary: Volume two: Psalms-Malachi (p. 15). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

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- b) As God's people worship God, pray, and share the Gospel with the lost, more people will trust Christ and increase the salt and light in the land.
- c) We must also share the truth of the Word with the next generation (2 Tim. 2:2) and prepare them for the battles and opportunities to come (78:1-8; 102:18).
- d) The church is always one generation short of extinction, so we must be faithful to win the lost and teach the believers, or vileness will conquer the land.

**Invitation: Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.