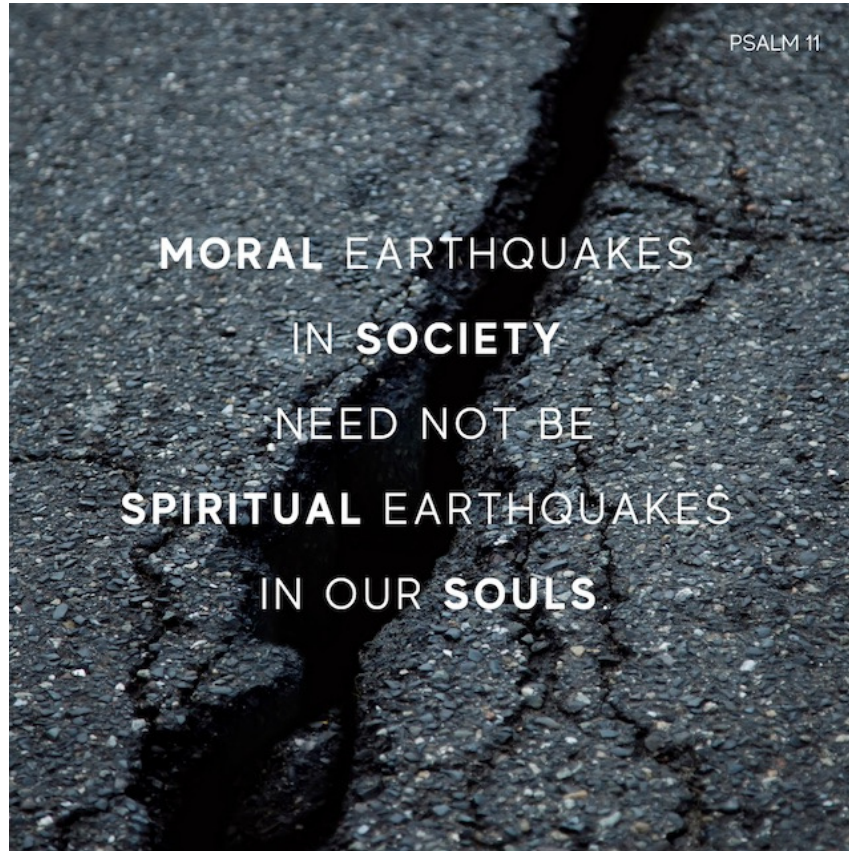

EARTHQUAKE FAITH

PSALM 11



We're living through a long earthquake that is shaking our society from top to bottom. It's not just the tumult in our political system, and it's not just the virus that's rocking our world. It's the moral and spiritual earthquake that's our greatest threat. Good is now called evil and evil is now called good. Truth is lies and lies are truth. The most basic distinctions in society are cracked and crumbling: What is marriage? What is a man? What is a woman? What is a family? What is right? What is wrong? The earthquake has spread from the media to schools to businesses to courts to churches and even to our own homes. Nothing is steady and sure. Everything is shaking and quaking—including ourselves. We need earthquake faith to support and strengthen us, and that's what we find in Psalm 11.

LEARNING

THE LORD IS TRUSTWORTHY (1-3)

The key to this Psalm is the question in verse 3: **"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"** (3). The foundations of society were not just under attack; they were being destroyed. The wicked were in power and the righteous were powerless in the face of their aggression and violence. The godly were being chased out of their homes, churches, and businesses. **"Flee like a bird to your mountain,"** the wicked mocked (1). The Psalmist knew their plan though: **"Behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart"** (2). Running to the mountains was running into a murder. So, what does David do? He tells us up front, **"I in the Lord take refuge"** (1). The Lord is my mountain.

RUNNING TO THE LORD IS SAFER
THAN RUNNING FROM THE WICKED.

And what does David see, when he runs to the Lord?

THE LORD IS ON HIS THRONE (4-7)

“The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man” (4). God is reigning over everything, sees everything, and is using these events to test the righteous.

And just in case anyone thinks that the wicked's success means that God loves the wicked and hates the righteous, the Psalmist confidently asserts: **“[God's] soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence”** (5) but **“loves righteous deeds”** (7).

And just in case there's any doubt as to the final outcome, David predicted that God would **“rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup”** (6), but **“the upright shall behold God's face”** (7). The scary threats of the wicked drive David to the stable throne of God. His earthquake faith is stronger than his earthquake fears.

MORAL EARTHQUAKES IN SOCIETY NEED NOT BE
SPIRITUAL EARTHQUAKES IN OUR SOULS.

LOVING

When we sing the Psalms, we can sing them to Christ, we can sing them of Christ, and we can sing them with Christ. This one we can sing with Christ because he died in the midst of the greatest earthquake (an external and internal earthquake). However, he could sing this earthquake Psalm with earthquake faith. Worship him by singing it with him.

LIVING

When our lives, the church, and our world are being shaken, find safety and stability in God's stable and sure throne.
