

WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL SAFE

Does money make you feel safe? If so, how much would it take to vanquish all your fears from any possible futures? How about a fully funded retirement account? Maybe having a small arsenal of guns and a stockpile of ammunition is what makes you feel safe. Many people might answer along these lines thinking of things that may offer physical security.

In Psalm 11, we see a different picture of what it means to feel safe. We also see from the very beginning that “What makes you feel safe,” is really not the right question to ask ourselves. Rather we should be asking, “Who makes you feel safe?”

The first three verses of the psalm show us a contrast in confidence. The psalmist (David according to the superscription) starts out emphatically proclaiming that the LORD is the one in whom he takes refuge. His “safe space” is not a physical location. He finds security, safety, and stability from his God. The advice that he is given immediately after this statement runs contrary to his conviction. It is not clear whether this advice is coming from an enemy of the psalmist or perhaps a friend. Regardless, the one telling him to “run for his life” is attempting to get him to trust in something or someone other than the LORD.

In the final four verses, the setting is flipped from the earthly perspective of the friend or foe to the heavenly perspective of the LORD himself. In these verses, we see the contrast clearly demonstrated by the LORD’s position, power, perception, proving, pariah (a fancy word that starts with “p” and means the object of one’s hate), punishment, purity, and presence.

The LORD is not aloof - he has not drawn back from his creation, especially from his people, the ones who are pure in heart. He sits on his throne symbolizing the authority which he possesses. There is nothing that escapes his knowledge. He tests those who belong to him so they may be proven and that their trust in the LORD becomes even stronger.

Through God’s word we can learn what the LORD loves and what he does not love. We should train ourselves to love what God loves and hate what he hates. Even then, however, we do not take it upon ourselves to mete out justice. Rather we ask the LORD to handle the matter according to his perfect wisdom and judgment. He is always right and because of his holiness and purity, he will always do what is right and deliver all who belong to him.

Those who trust in the LORD to provide their ultimate safety and security will not be let down. On the contrary, they will be able to behold him face to face in his presence for all eternity!

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