

*Psalm 11*

GOD IS IN CONTROL

A One Bird Blog Psalm Experience  
Jordan Williams

# ONE BIRD BLOG

BY JORDAN WILLIAMS

Welcome to the One Bird Blog Psalm Experience. Something like a devotional, something like a quick scripture study.

My hope is that this serves as a companion to your own thoughts and inspires you with beauty and plenty of room for your heart to walk around in.

Included is the ESV translation of Psalm 11, my personal annotations from my own Bible, and a short devotional.

And because I believe poetry can be prayer, you'll also see my recommendations for a poem to read and a song to listen to that complement this particular Psalm.



# Psalm 11

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE  
TO THE CHOIRMASTER. OF DAVID.

- 1 In the Lord I take refuge;  
how can you say to my soul,  
"Flee like a bird to your mountain,
- 2 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;
- 3 if the foundations are destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?"
- 4 The Lord is in his holy temple;  
the Lord's throne is in heaven;  
his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.
- 5 The Lord tests the righteous,  
but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.
- 6 Let him rain coals on the wicked;  
fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their  
cup.
- 7 For the Lord is righteous;  
he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright shall behold his face.

# Psalm 11

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1 In the Lord I take refuge;  
how can you say to my soul,  
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One Bird 

2 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;

} But my heart is always propped  
up in a field on its tripod, ready  
for the next arrow.

-Billy Collins

3 if the foundations are destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?"

Question

4 The Lord is in his holy temple;  
the Lord's throne is in heaven;  
his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.

Answer

**God is in control.**

When I feel everything  
God is stable + constant.


5 The Lord tests the righteous,  
but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.

6 Let him rain coals on the wicked;  
fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their  
cup.

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7 For the Lord is righteous;  
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the upright shall behold his face.

Justice.



There are mornings when the first sensation I feel upon waking is a quick tightness across my collarbone. I know anxiety when it arrives, like a blazer one size too large. Like a lion's enormous, warm paw pressing downward with gentle and potentially deadly toes.

There is immediate, unconscious prayer. The Holy Spirit working across the mysterious, supernatural connection tethering my mortal body and emotion to what is incomprehensibly holy and full of shalom. Before I am consciously awake, the Spirit can intercede on behalf of the beloved.

Still, there are mornings when my body carries the heaviness of the unknown thing. I often posture my prayers toward it, asking Christ to heal and work over whatever is out of alignment.

The world will demonstrate how to run to higher ground when pressed. Discomfort as catalyst for giving up, cancelling, rejecting, annihilating. It can feel easier to operate out of this mindset. To till up the earth of the whole field. To not walk row by row cultivating what soil patches need extra toil.

But the Lord is omnipotent over all of it. Holding all things together, tending, watching, fully-engaged. He is not a clockmaker who practices the intricacy of creation and then sits back in apathetic observation. He sees, He understands.

Instead of feeling pressure and throwing up our hands, what if we took comfort in knowing that the Lord is righteous and loves justice? When addiction, adultery, job loss, bullying, depression, racism, and the up-turned contents of Pandora's box are poured into our feeble lives, we can take a deep breath and cling to the thought that those who are trying, with their whole heart leaning out toward Christ, will see the beautiful face of God.

But my heart is always  
propped up in a field  
on its tripod, ready for  
the next arrow.

From "Aimless Love"  
by Billy Collins



## Pray

Lord, when I feel isolated and truly afraid, will You encircle me with the comfort of Your righteousness? There is so much pain and there are days when being set apart only makes me feel unprotected out in the wide place. Thank You, El Roi, that you are The God Who Sees. I am wise to stay grounded in You, as you fight for me against what is violent.

## Read

"Aimless Love" by Billy Collins

## Listen

"On My Side" by Kim Walker-Smith





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