



Δ Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Psalm 46:1-11

#14 in a series on the Psalms

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Theme: **We Can Be Confident Because God Is Our Fortress.**

Our Confidence Is Grounded In Who God Is.

1. God is our refuge. (1; cf. Psalm 14:6; 61:3; 62:7-8; 91:1-2; Isaiah 4:6; 25:4)
2. God is our strength. (1; cf. Psalm 28:7-8; 29:11; 61:3; 62:7; 84:5; 2 Corinthians 12:9)
3. God is our very present help in trouble. (1; cf. Deuteronomy 4:6-7; Psalm 34:17-18; 145:18)
4. God is our stronghold. (7, 11; cf. Psalm 18:2; 48:3; 59:16; 62:2, 6)

Our Confidence Is Grounded In What God Does.

1. He is with us. (4-5, 7, 11; Numbers 14:9; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5 cp. Hebrews 13:5-6; 2 Chronicles 13:12; Psalm 5:12; 23:4; 73:24)
2. He asserts His sovereignty and glory over all. (6, 8-10; cf. Psalm 18:7-15; 47:9; 97:9; 99:2; 148:13; Isaiah 2:11, 17; Jeremiah 25:30-31)

Our Confidence Grows As We ...

1. Study God's works. (8-9; cf. 66:5-7)
2. Stop striving. (10; cf. Psalm 37:8)
3. Know He is God. (10; cf. Deuteronomy 4:35; Psalm 9:10; 78:1-7; 100:3; 1 John 5:13)

Our Confidence Means That ...

1. We will not fear. (2-3; cf. Psalm 3:1-6; 23:4; 27:1, 3; 56:1-13; 91:1-9; 112:1-10; 118:6; Romans 8:38-39)
2. We will not be moved. (5; cf. Psalm 16:8; 62:2, 6; 112:1-10; Proverbs 10:30)
3. We will be glad. (4; cf. Psalm 5:11; 16:8-9; 36:7-8; 64:10; Revelation 22:1-2)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Psalm 46 is about confidence. Confidence can be fickle as we live in a fallen world, ourselves marred by that fall, wounded by failures, disappointments and attacks. This Psalm is not about self-confidence, but God-confidence. Only confidence in and from God is truly unshakable. It is grounded in who God is, in His unchanging nature. Read the Psalm, exploring, reflecting on and applying the four key aspects of who God is that are stressed here.

Tuesday. Our confidence can fluctuate with the actions of others and ourselves, with what is going on in our life. We can even have an up and down level of confidence in God based on what we have seen Him doing or not doing. Have you been there? Our vision and understanding of what God does is not always clear. That is why we started with who God is. What God does is an important, tangible evidence of who He is. Review the verses listed and think about the two areas of God's action we looked at on Sunday (His being with us and asserting His sovereignty and glory over all). Do you look for evidence of these actions in your life and world? What specific examples can you list from the last week, from today?

Wednesday. Our confidence in God grows over time and with experience, as it does with people. And, just as with people, our confidence grows with the right focus as well as experiences. The Psalm writer calls us to "Come, behold the works of the LORD" (verse 8). While he focuses on judgment, we should be looking at, taking in all aspects of God's work. What does "Cease striving" mean (verse 10)? How does this tie in to and lead to the second part of the phrase, "and know that I am God"? These three actions go together. Do you see how your confidence in God will grow as you do these things?

Thursday. When our confidence is solidly in God as He really is, and is growing, it enables us to not be fearful, shaken or tossed about, but surefooted and glad. Check the points and verses in the last heading of the outline. This truth, and the truth of the entire Psalm, is for you, not just *select others*. Regardless of your circumstances, determine to continue to grow in knowing God as your mighty fortress.

Friday–Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at Psalm 130. Read and think through this Psalm as you prepare for our time of worship together.

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