

- 1 *In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?*
5 *The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.*
6 *Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. (Psalm 11:1,5-6)*

In the midst of severe trials and testing, when we are discouraged and threatened on every side, our faith begins to waver. We have declared our trust in God and have found Him to be unfailingly faithful in the past. But new situations bring new and unexperienced predicaments. Is God able for these things? Will God preserve and keep us through these trials? Does God yet know and care for me? These are the questions with which unbelief assails our minds. Then the heart wants to panic and “flee as a bird” to some mountain other than God.

Here is the answer to such faltering faith: God does try the righteous. His son does not exist who does not experience His chastisement. Our Creator will purify His gold in the crucible of His divine providence until the dross of worldliness and sin is purged from our hearts. But let us remember that we experience only trials. They will pass. They are tokens of His love, not His displeasure. He only chastises the son in whom He delights.

It is not so with the wicked. God indeed tries the righteous, but verily hates the wicked. The sufferings of the righteous are for their benefit, but the judgments upon the wicked are for their punishment. The character and nature of God are unchanging. The righteous God loves righteousness and upholds the upright, but He hates iniquity and will in no wise desist from bringing everlasting damnation upon the violent and unjust.

How say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to the mountain? Out with it! If I love Christ, the Saviour of sinners, then He that justifies and counts me righteous for Christ’s sake will carry me through this trial also.

-C.M.