

Psalm 71 — "The Prayer of an Aged Servant"

Text (NKJV):

1 *In You, O LORD, I put my trust;
Let me never be put to shame.*
2 *Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape;
Incline Your ear to me, and save me.*
3 *Be my strong refuge, to which I may resort continually;
You have given the commandment to save me,
For You are my rock and my fortress.*
4 *Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,
Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.*
5 *For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;
You are my trust from my youth.*
6 *By You I have been upheld from birth;
You are He who took me out of my mother's womb.
My praise shall be continually of You.*

A Lifetime of Trust and Refuge (vv. 1–6)

David, now an old man, begins with a confession that he has *continually* placed his trust in the Lord. Trusting in God is not merely an act of youthful zeal; it is the testimony of a life lived leaning on Him from the earliest days (from the moment of rebirth). The Lord is described as a *strong refuge*, a place to which David can *resort continually*. In times of weariness and opposition, he had found the Lord to be a sure and steady refuge.

David's petition to be delivered *in God's righteousness* shows that his hope is not based on personal merit but on God's character. He has known God's sustaining hand from birth, recognizing that his very life has been held up by divine care.

Personal Application:

Like David, we are called to trust God not only when we are strong but also when we feel vulnerable. God's faithfulness is not tied to our strength. No matter our age or station in life, He remains our *rock* and *fortress*. Is your life anchored in Him today? Have you made the Lord your continual refuge — not just in crisis, but every day?

Pleading for God's Nearness in Old Age (vv. 7–13)

7 *I have become as a wonder to many,
But You are my strong refuge.*
8 *Let my mouth be filled with Your praise
And with Your glory all the day.*
9 *Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.*

David acknowledges that others look at his life in amazement — likely both for his triumphs and his trials. Yet, his attention is not on what people think; it is on God's nearness. He fears the isolation that can come with aging — when strength fades and friends depart — but he knows that God will not forsake him.

Even as enemies whisper that God has abandoned him, David's prayer is, "*O God, be not far from me.*" The nearness of God is the comfort of every believer, especially when human resources fail.

Personal Application:

Growing older often brings new fears: physical weakness, loneliness, or feelings of uselessness. But in every season of life, God remains near to His people. His promises do not expire with age. If you feel overlooked or forgotten, remember that God's nearness is still your refuge and your hope. You are not forsaken.

Continual Praise and Hope (vv. 14–18)

*14 But I will hope continually,
And will praise You yet more and more.
15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness
And Your salvation all the day,
For I do not know their limits.*

Despite his circumstances, David resolves to hope and to praise *continually*. His praise is not based on his health or his comfort but on the boundless righteousness and salvation of God.

He also expresses a desire to *show God's strength to this generation* and to *declare His power to those yet to come*. Even in old age, David sees his life as a testimony meant to encourage others — not to boast in himself, but to magnify God.

Personal Application:

As long as we have breath, we have a purpose: to make God's greatness known to others. No matter how weak or limited we may feel, our testimony can inspire younger generations to trust in the Lord. Let us resolve not to retire from praising God but to *praise Him more and more*.

Hope Beyond the Grave (vv. 19–21)

*19 Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high,
You who have done great things;
O God, who is like You?
20 You, who have shown me great and severe troubles,
Shall revive me again,
And bring me up again from the depths of the earth.*

David's confidence is not limited to this life. He trusts that the God who has rescued him time and again will *revive him* — a hope that points beyond the grave. This is one of the Old Testament's clearer declarations of resurrection hope.

He acknowledges God's past deliverances and leans on the assurance that, even in death, God's power is not diminished. There is no one like God, and His power extends beyond physical life's final enemy.

Personal Application:

The grave is not the end for the believer. Christ has conquered death (2 Timothy 1:10), and because He lives, we also shall live. If you are weighed down by thoughts of mortality, anchor your hope in the God who will revive and raise you. Death is but a doorway to unhindered, eternal fellowship with Him.

Praise as a Lifelong Song (vv. 22–24)

*22 Also with the lute I will praise You—
And Your faithfulness, O my God!
To You I will sing with the harp,
O Holy One of Israel.*

*23 My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You,
And my soul, which You have redeemed.*

*24 My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long;
For they are confounded,
For they are brought to shame who seek my hurt.*

David closes with a vow to praise God *with music and song*. His lips and his soul will overflow with rejoicing. Even as enemies remain, David chooses the weapon of worship. His redeemed soul finds its delight in magnifying the righteousness of God.

Personal Application:

Worship is not reserved for the strong or the young. Every believer can praise God — even in seasons of weakness. Praise lifts our eyes above our troubles and fixes them on the One who never changes. Let your life be a song of testimony to God's righteousness and faithfulness, every day.

Conclusion

Psalm 71 is a beautiful picture of a life anchored in God from birth to old age. It teaches us:

- To continually trust in God as our refuge.
- To call on Him at every stage of life, especially when strength fails.
- To keep proclaiming His greatness to the next generation.
- To set our hope on His power to raise us beyond the grave.
- To let praise be the ongoing soundtrack of our lives.

Challenge for the Week:

Reflect on how God has been faithful to you across the years. Take time to write down a personal psalm (or a list of things) of gratitude and praise. And, in moments of weakness or fear, whisper

19-Daily Bible Reading Companion
Psalms Chapter 71

David's words: *O God, do not be far from me.* Trust that He who has upheld you so far will carry you safely home.