

**Psalm 71 — “Aging to the Glory of God! Living a Forward-Tilted Life!”****Introduction:**

“We are flying, as on some mighty eagle's wing, swiftly on towards eternity. Let us, then, talk about preparing to die. It is the greatest thing we have to do, and we have soon to do it, so let us talk and think something about it.”

(Charles Spurgeon)

J. I. Packer calls it *“the Forward-Tilted Life”* — a life lived with the mind focused on “the ultimate destination”

“Getting old to the glory of God means getting old in a way that makes God look glorious. It means living and dying in a way that shows God to be the all-satisfying Treasure that he is.” (John Piper)

**Some examples in Scripture of those who “Aged well to God’s glory”**

- ✓ **Caleb:** an 85 year old who requests a city/inheritance for himself & his people. GOD blessed him because he “followed GOD FULLY” (Josh 14:9 & 14).
- ✓ **Enoch:** 365 years (Gen 5:22-24). He ‘pleased God’ (Heb 11:5)
- ✓ **Job:** died an old man, full of days (Job 42:17)
- ✓ **David:** died a “good old age & full of days” (1 Chron 29:28).
- ✓ **Abraham:** died 175, a ‘good old age, an old man & satisfied with life’ (Gen 25:8).
- ✓ **Moses:** was 120 when he died, his ‘eye was not dim nor his vigor abated’ (Deut 34:7)

“Every Christian has two great works to do in the world, to **live well**, and to **die well**.” (Edmund Barker)

**THESIS** — From Psalm 71, we’ll observe **6 ways** to ensure that you age well!

**I. KNOWING GOD! (1-2)**

“God kisses away the fear of aging with his promises” (Charles Spurgeon)

**II. MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE! (3)**

- I have treasured/hidden your heart in my heart that I may not sin against you (Ps 119:11).
- Like David who said: “Your Law is within my heart” (Ps 40:8).
- “The Law of his God is in his heart & His steps do not slip!” (Ps 37:31).

**III. PURSUING CONTENTMENT! (4-6)**

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HOW? How pursue contentment? **5 keys:**

1. Continued Prayer (rescue me...)
2. Upward Focus (go to God, don't grumble; Look up, don't look in/around; focus on God!)
3. Active Reliance (**you** are my hope)
4. Past Deliverances (you are my confidence from my youth; you took me from mother's womb)
5. Daily Praise (my praise is continually of you)

**IV. LOVING CHURCH! (7-16)**

How?

1. Your example (7)
2. Your words (8)
3. Your steadfastness/endurance (9-11)
4. Your prayers (12)
5. Your \*testimonies\* (15-16)

“So growing old to the glory of God means using whatever strength and eyesight and hearing and mobility and resources we have left to treasure Christ and in that joy to and serve people—that is seek to bring them with us into the everlasting enjoyment of Christ. Serving people, and not ourselves, as the overflow of treasuring Christ makes Christ look great.” (John Piper)

**V. MENTORING OTHERS! (17-18)**

To *mentor* is to declare the faithfulness of God by example, in testimony, in counsel & in prayer.

**VI. MAGNIFYING CHRIST! (19-24)**

2 additional pastoral words I want to convey:

1. **A Passionate Call – Psalm 71:18!**
2. **A Promised Comfort – Isaiah 46:3-4!**

“Old age may rob us of personal beauty and deprive us of strength for active service, but it does not lower us in the love & favor of God!” (Charles Spurgeon)