
A Psalm from a Senior Saint

Psalm 71 (page 422 in the black Bibles)

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What do you think of when you think about old age?

What difference does it make as a believer in Christ as you think about growing old?

Main point:

God's faithfulness is on display in Psalm 71 in the life of an older saint who demonstrates confidence in prayer, who resolves to increasingly praise and who desires to proclaim God's faithfulness to future generations.

I. Remembering God's Faithfulness Gives Confidence in the Present. (1-11)

A. Opening Prayer (1-4)

¹In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge;
Let me never be ashamed.

²In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
Incline Your ear to me and save me.

³Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come;
You have given commandment to save me,
For You are my rock and my fortress.

⁴Rescue me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,
Out of the grasp of the wrongdoer and ruthless man,

B. Remembering God's Faithfulness (5-6)

⁵For You are my hope;
O Lord God, *You are* my confidence from my youth.

⁶By You I have been sustained from *my* birth;
You are He who took me from my mother's womb;
My praise is continually of You.

C. The Effect of Remembering God's Faithfulness (7-8)

⁷I have become a marvel to many,
For You are my strong refuge.

⁸My mouth is filled with Your praise
And with Your glory all day long.

D. Request for God to Demonstrate His Faithfulness Again (9-13)

⁹Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.

¹⁰For my enemies have spoken against me;
And those who watch for my life have consulted together,

¹¹Saying, "God has forsaken him;
Pursue and seize him, for there is no one to deliver."

¹²O God, do not be far from me;
O my God, hasten to my help!

¹³Let those who are adversaries of my soul be ashamed *and* consumed;

Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor, who seek to injure me.

II. Remembering God's Faithfulness Gives Confidence in the Future (14-21)

A. Resolve to Trust God and Praise Him (14)

¹⁴But as for me, I will hope continually,
And will praise You yet more and more.

B. Resolve to Testify of God Righteousness (15-16)

¹⁵My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness
And of Your salvation all day long;
For I do not know the sum *of them*.

¹⁶I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD;
I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

C. Desire to Testify to the Next Generation (17-19)

¹⁷O God, You have taught me from my youth,
And I still declare Your wondrous deeds.

¹⁸And even when *I am* old and gray, O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation,
Your power to all who are to come.

19 For Your righteousness, O God, *reaches* to the heavens,
You who have done great things;
O God, who is like You?

D. Hope in God's Restoration (20-21)

20 You who have shown me many troubles and distresses
Will revive me again,
And will bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

21 May You increase my greatness
And turn *to* comfort me.

III. Remembering God's Faithfulness Gives Causes Believers to Praise Him. (22-24)

22 I will also praise You with a harp,
Even Your truth, O my God;
To You I will sing praises with the lyre,

O Holy One of Israel.

23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You;
And my soul, which You have redeemed.

24 My tongue also will utter Your righteousness all day long;
For they are ashamed, for they are humiliated who seek my hurt.

Application:

Remember the many times and ways God has demonstrated His faithfulness in your life (i.e. count your blessings)

Let those times of God's faithfulness in the past be for you an encouragement to trust Him in your current circumstances and your future.

Let those times of God's faithfulness in the past and in the present be an occasion of increasing praise to God.

If you are an older saint, learn from Psalm 71 that you have a purpose to testify of God's faithfulness to the next generation as long as you have life.

If you are a younger saint, seek out the older saints who have walked with the Lord through the years so you might learn what it means to walk with God through the circumstances of your life.