

PSALM 71: THE PRAYER OF AN OLD MAN

A Message on Trust, Hope, and Faithfulness in Every Season

CENTRAL QUESTION:

Where do you put your trust when everything else fails?

I. THE FOUNDATION OF TRUST

Key Scripture: Psalm 71:1-3

"In you, O Lord, I put my trust...Be to me a rock and a refuge, a sheltering stronghold."

What Trust Means:

- Trust is not in people, programs, or political candidates
- Trust is not in religious groups or temporary solutions
- Trust is exclusively in God alone—the one who created us and sustains us

The Rock as Symbol:

- God is unmovable, unchanging, and always present
 - Unlike people who use and abandon us, God is eternally faithful
 - We run to Him continually for refuge and strength
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II. TRUST THROUGH WEAKNESS AND AGE

Key Scripture: Psalm 71:9, 18

"Do not cast me off...in the time of my old age. Do not abandon me when my strength fails."

The Truth About Aging:

- We don't become worthless when we're old or weak
- God doesn't discard us when we can't do what we used to do
- We still have value, purpose, and capability in God's eyes

A Purpose That Never Ends:

- Young people need to listen to godly wisdom from older believers
 - Older believers are called to declare God's mighty strength to the next generation
 - Age is not an end to our purpose—it's a platform for testimony
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III. TRUST WHEN ENEMIES SURROUND YOU

Key Scripture: Psalm 71:10-11, 24

"For my enemies have spoken against me...those who watch for my life have consulted together."

The Promise of Protection:

- No weapon formed against us can prosper (Isaiah 54:17)
- When the enemy comes like a flood, the Holy Spirit raises up a standard
- God's truth silences every mouth that rises against us

What Matters Most:

- We have "an audience of one"—God is all that matters
 - People's opinions, family criticism, and worldly pressure are temporary
 - Our only judge and defender is the Lord
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IV. TRUST THROUGH PRAISE AND TESTIMONY

Key Scripture: Psalm 71:14-15, 23-24

"My mouth is filled with your praise...I will continually praise you."

Continuous Praise:

- We praise God all day long, in every situation
- Praise is not optional—it's our response to His faithfulness
- Our mouths should overflow with His glory and righteousness

The Call to Proclaim:

- Everyone who has trusted Christ is called to preach the gospel
- Silence about God's goodness serves the enemy
- Faith comes by hearing, so we must speak about what Jesus has done

What Evangelism Really Is:

- "One beggar showing another beggar where to find bread"
 - You don't need special qualifications—you just need to share your story
 - If you've tasted that He is good, you can testify to His goodness
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V. TRUST ACKNOWLEDGES GOD'S MIRACLES

Key Scripture: Psalm 71:17, 20

"You have taught me from my youth...You will revive and renew me again."

Miracles Are Happening Now:

- Waking up alive and healthy is a miracle
- Every breath, every heartbeat, every new day is God's grace
- We survive by His mercy alone—not by our own strength

From Past Troubles to Present Hope:

- God has brought us through trials before
 - He revived us from the depths and raised us up again
 - Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning with the Lord
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VI. TRUST IN GOD'S CHARACTER AND UNIQUENESS

Key Scripture: Psalm 71:19-22

"Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens...There is none like you, O Lord."

Who God Is:

- The Creator of the universe who spoke stars into existence
- The Speaker of life who knows our every thought
- The One who knows everything about us—past, present, and future

The Comparison:

- Everything else will fail us and leave us broken
 - Only Christ gives true love, joy, peace, and the Holy Spirit
 - Only Jesus can bring us to the end and help us endure
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VII. TRUST TRANSFORMS EVERYTHING WE DO

Key Scripture: Psalm 71:8, 14-15

"My mouth is filled with your praise and with your glory all day long."

Living with Full Trust Means:

- Trusting Him with our future, our past, our family
- Entrusting our children, grandchildren, finances, and community to Him
- Recognizing that in Him "we live and move and have our being"

The Battle We Face:

- The only real battle is against our own flesh and desires
- We submit to His lordship and leadership, then resist the devil
- Stay focused on Jesus—keep your eyes on Him like Peter walking on water

The Result of Trust:

- We become a wonder to others—they see how we stand firm amid pressure
 - We become living testimonies of God's faithfulness
 - Our lives declare His righteousness and salvation all day long
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KEY TAKEAWAY:

"In you, O Lord, I put my trust" means:

- I trust in no one and nothing else
 - I lean entirely on God's character and faithfulness
 - I praise Him through every season of life
 - I proclaim His goodness to a lost and dying world
 - I believe His promises will carry me to the end
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CENTRAL CHALLENGE:

Where do YOU put your trust? What are you confidently hoping for? What are you relying on more than anything else?

Everything else will fail you. Only Christ Jesus never will.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- In what area of your life do you struggle to fully trust God?
 - Who in your life needs to hear your testimony of God's faithfulness?
 - How can you be a "wonder" to those around you through your trust in Christ?
 - What does it look like to "wait on the Lord" in your current season?
 - How will you respond to God's call to declare His mighty acts to the next generation?
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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Psalm 71 (entire) | Psalm 139:7-10 | Isaiah 54:17 | Jeremiah 1:5 | Genesis 2:7 | Matthew 28:19-20 | Romans 10:17 | 2 Corinthians 12:9 | Philippians 4:6-7 | Hebrews 12:2