

Life of David: Learning to Never Stop Talking About God's Goodness

Psalm 71

As we open to Psalm 71, we have already seen how the whole Psalm is a portrait about how David looked at life through the lens of Scripture.

But tonight, as we come to the ending of David's life we are looking at another aspect of His life reflected in this Psalm.

David declares that he is going to speak out about the goodness of God to the end.

David Decided to Talk About God's Goodness

David has learned to never stop talking about the goodness of God.

Please stand with me and listen to God speaking through David.

Psalm 71:6, 8, 15, 17-18 (NKJV)

v. 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.

v. 8 Let my mouth be filled with Your praise and with Your glory all the day

v. 15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits.

v. 17 O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.

v. 18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.

If we could summarize what David was doing in Psalm 71 it would be something like:

I'm going to be thankful about everything and pray about everything.

Look back at what he says, and them in your hearts, your minds, and your Bibles.

David is:

Rejoicing

First of all, David is rejoicing in the Lord. You, You, You: the Lord fills David's mind, David's words, David's future plans. That is what rejoicing is about: the Lord. Rejoicing is not about good times, it finds its source in the Lord. If the Lord fills our minds and lives, we are rejoicing, there is no way around it. So **David is rejoicing.**

David is: Praying

Secondly, David is talking to the Lord. All the way through this Psalm we see David talking to the Lord. In fact almost all of David's 71 Psalms look either partially or entirely like prayers. They reflect David's heart. David loved to talk to the Lord. What do we call "talking to the Lord"? We call it prayer, right? So **David is praying.**

David is: Thankful

Finally, David is clearly thankful. He is talking about all the good things his God has done for him. David says everything since my birth has Your Handiwork stamped upon it. David was thankful for God's wondrous works, for God's salvation, for God's righteousness, for God's power. In other words David saw God everywhere in life, and in everything that happened. So **David is thankful.**

With those three truths in mind, as I read back over those five key verses in Psalm 71, notice for yourself these three amazing elements of David's life:

David is rejoicing. David is praying. David is thankful.

Psalm 71:6, 8, 15, 17-18 (NKJV)

- v. 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.
- v. 8 Let my **mouth be filled with Your praise** and **with Your glory** all the day
- v. 15 My mouth shall **tell of Your righteousness** and
Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits.
- v. 17 O God, **You have taught me** from my youth; and to this day
I declare Your wondrous works.
- v. 18 Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me,
Until **I declare Your strength** to this generation,

Your power to everyone who is to come.

David's Life: Summarized

We could almost summarize David's life, recorded in the Psalms by these same three amazing elements:

David is rejoicing. David is praying. David is thankful.

Those three choices, habits, characteristics: whatever you want to call them, those three sound like a great way to live life. They are what reflect David's love for God and David's passion for God's supremacy in his life.

Tonight, those same elements are to be in our lives. Listen to them again:

David is rejoicing. David is praying. David is thankful.

We could say David seems to want to always rejoice, always pray, and always express gratitude or thankfulness. That kind of sounds like a NT passage that says something like: rejoice always, be prayerful at all time, and be thankful in everything.

David's Life: Reflecting God's Will

Why not turn with me to I Thessalonians 5 and there we will see that David was reflecting God's will for us. God has revealed His will, and if He wants us to do something, He gives us the grace to accomplish it, right? I Thessalonians 5:16-18.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV) Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

We could almost summarize David's life, recorded in the Psalms by these same three amazing elements, which are imperatives or commands in Paul's letter from God to the Thessalonians:

David is rejoicing. David is praying. David is thankful.

Those three choices, habits, characteristics: whatever you want to call them, those three sound like a great way to live life. They are what reflect David's love for God and David's passion for God's supremacy in his life. And God commands us to allow Him to bring about those same elements in our lives. Listen to them again:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV) Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

God's will for us is vital.

God has stated that will clearly.

Which leads us to another huge reality: this lifestyle of praise, prayer, and thanksgiving is God's Will for each of us. And it is just one element of several clearly recorded declarations of God's will.

For just a moment let me share what I was taught in the five years that I was mentored in pastoral ministry at Grace Community Church. I had just graduated from three years of University and five years of Graduate school.

I was full of facts and books, but needed to be trained in how to apply all that I had learned. God placed me on staff with John MacArthur. It was totally God's doing. I met John once over lunch, and at the end of that lunch he stood up and shook my hand and asked me to come on staff and serve with him. That was something only the Lord could do.

For five years as I traveled with John and stood with him in the visitor reception line at Grace, much like ours here each Sunday, I watched him give each person the same advice as they sought direction from him. It was a sermon he had preached that was so powerful, the church printed it up as a small booklet to hand out to every single person that visited Grace. In my tenure there we had at least 100 visitors weekly, usually more.

Here is a summary of what I heard, over-and-over again as John MacArthur shared the words of that message: ***Found God's Will***¹

Number one: The will of God is that men be saved.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Now this is where the will of God begins for us or for any man. Second Peter is about false prophets, who deny the return of Christ in 2 Peter 3. False prophets deny the return of Christ. And they're saying, are always saying 'Jesus is coming, Jesus is coming.' Where is He? Where is He?"

And Peter answers and says this, verse 9: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men are." In other words, He hasn't come because He's slack in promise, but He is long-suffering.

In other words, He hasn't come not because He can't come but because He waits in

¹ This a message I have heard John share numerous times as I traveled and served with him at Grace. John MacArthur, transcript of sermon preached 11/22/1972, <http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/1217/how-to-know-the-will-of-god>

mercy. And the reason He waits is that "He is not willing that any should perish but all should come to repentance."

The will of God is not that men perish. The will of God is not that men perish. The will of God is that men be saved. So God's will then for your life, for the life of any man, begins with salvation. God's will is that you be saved. That's where it all starts. You commit your life to Jesus Christ. That's basic.

Number two: God's will is that you be Spirit-filled.

Ephesians 5:17-18 (NKJV) Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

We are to be kept filled with the Spirit. In other words, the word 'filled' means totally dominated and controlled. The word is used in the Gospels when it says someone was filled anger or so-and-so was filled with rage or so-and-so was filled with wrath or filled with madness. It means that it totally controls you.

The Spirit is a person. He is either there or not there. The Spirit doesn't come in pieces. You know, we ask God for strength and we already have strength that Christ has given us. We can do all things through Christ whose strengthen us.

We ask Him for power and the Spirit's there with all the power we need. We ask Him for grace and He says, "My grace is sufficient." We ask Him for love and he says, "The love of Christ is shed abroad in your heart". We ask Him to guide us, He says, "I'm trying, why don't you follow?" We always ask for these things that we already have and we have the Spirit.

And so the Bible is really saying, confess your sin, yield to the Spirit, He will release His power. And then when you wander through the world, people will mistake you for God, or Jesus Christ. They'll see godliness in you. That's the Spirit-filled life. You know, once you're Spirit-filled, then you just begin to go in the will of God; it's fantastic!

If I had a glove lying here, and I said, "Glove, go play in tune on the piano" what's the glove going to do? It's not going to do anything! Gloves cannot play the piano.

Colossians 3:16 says "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." The Spirit-filled life is nothing more than saturation with the person of Christ. You get that? Everybody wants a quickie. Everybody wants three easy steps to instant spirituality. Instant maturity. It can't happen.

We will never know what the walk in the Spirit means until we commit ourselves to the saturation of the presence of Jesus Christ. You say, well how do you saturate yourself with His presence? Simply by studying the Word, right?

The more I focus on Him and the Word, and the more the thoughts of God saturate my

mind, the more the word of Christ controls me, the more yielded I am to Him.

Number three: God's will is that you be sanctified.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6 (NKJV) For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 is a verse that's not too tough to understand. "For this is the will of God", that's not difficult is it?

This is the will of God. What? Your sanctification. Stop right there.

God wants you to be set apart, and the word sanctification means holy. Let's use the word pure, because that illustrates it. God wants you to be pure. That's his will. Sanctified.

Saved, Spirit-filled, sanctified.

Paul gives the four principles of Sanctified purity.

1. Number 1: v. 3: that you should abstain from fornication. Now the word fornication means sexual sin. Principle one is: Stay away from sex-sin, period. Don't do it, don't watch it, don't read about it, don't listen to it. Stay away from it to be pure.
2. Number 2: v. 4, that every one of you, no exceptions, that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor. Now vessel could mean wife or body. In the context here it means body. Principle two is: God is saying, every one of you should know how to possess his body in purity and honor to God.
3. Number 3: v. 5, not in the lust of evil desire as the heathen who know not God. Now principle three is, "Don't act like a godless heathen."
4. Number 4: v. 6 "no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter. Because the Lord is avenger of all such as we also are forewarned and testify." Now principle four is: Don't take advantage of other people.

So God's will is that we be like this: Saved, Spirit-filled, Sanctified, In everything Rejoicing, Praying, and Thankful.

Now back to what David wrote² in **Psalms 71**—how to talk about God’s goodness all our days. That is why He left us here. That is what life is all about. But how do we do it? David shows us.

We don’t know how long before our Master returns. Jesus said we must do His work until He comes. The best way to do that is to start living right now the way we want to have Him find us at the end when He comes (rapture) or calls (death).

Plans to Rejoice Always, Pray Ceaselessly & Always be Thankful

To profit most from this lesson, I encourage you to personalize David’s list by beginning each resolve saying, “**Lord, by Your grace I will ...**”—and then say the choice you’re making to serve Him:

“**Lord, by Your grace I will ...**”—

1. **Flee to You for hope** as my troubles threaten to drown me. Psalm 71:1 In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.
2. **Cry out to You for help** before I give in to temptations. Psalm 71:2 Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape; Incline Your ear to me, and save me.
3. **Trust Your Word over my fears** before I get paralyzed by them. Psalm 71:3 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. **Seek You about my hurts** before I get bitter. Psalm 71:4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.
5. **Keep reminding myself** of Your faithfulness for all of my life. Psalm 71:5 For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth.
6. **Seek Your plan** for my life each day. Psalm 71:6 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.
7. **Use my mouth so often for praise** that there’s no room left to complain. Psalm 71:8 Let my mouth be filled with Your praise And with Your glory all the day.

We could almost summarize David’s life, recorded in the Psalms by these same three amazing elements, which are imperatives or commands in Paul’s letter from God to the

² How do we know David wrote Psalm 71? For two reasons: 1). Psalm 70 is combined with Psalm 71, and is the intro to Psalm 71 in the Hebrew Bible. 2). Psalm 70 starts with the first 5 verses coming from the last five verses of Psalm 40. So we conclude that Psalm 71 is David’s prayer and testimony.

Thessalonians:

David is rejoicing. David is praying. David is thankful.

And that is God's Will!

43: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not:
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy Great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

Refrain—

*Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! Amen.*

—Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1886-1960)

Appendix: The Amazing Truths of Psalm 71 Seen in Other Psalms

Psalm 71	Other Psalms
v. 1-3	Psalm 31:1-3 1 In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. 3 For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.
v.3 Psalm 71:3 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.	Psalm 90:1 A Prayer of Moses the man of God. 1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Psalm 91:9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, Psalm 7:6 Arise, O Lord, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded! Psalm 42:8 The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me—A prayer to the God of my life. Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
v.4 Psalm 71:4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.	Psalm 140:1, 4 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 Deliver me, O Lord, from evil men; Preserve me from violent men, 4 Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; Preserve me from violent men, Who have purposed to make my steps stumble.
v.5 Psalm 71:5 For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth.	Psalm 39:7 "And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Psalm 22:9 But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.
v.6 Psalm 71:6 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.	Psalm 22:9-10 But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.10 I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God. Psalm 34:1 A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed. 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
v.7 Psalm 71:7 I have become as a wonder to many, But You are my strong refuge.	Psalm 61:3 For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.
v.8 Psalm 71:8 Let my mouth be filled with Your praise And with Your glory all the day.	Psalm 63:5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. Psalm 96:6 Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Psalm 104:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul! 1 O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty,
v.9 Psalm 71:9 Do not cast me off in	Psalm 92:14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and

the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails.	flourishing,
v.10 Psalm 71:10 For my enemies speak against me; And those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together,	Psalm 56:6 They gather together, They hide, they mark my steps, When they lie in wait for my life. Psalm 31:13 For I hear the slander of many; Fear is on every side; While they take counsel together against me, They scheme to take away my life. Psalm 83:3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.
v.11 Psalm 71:11 11 Saying, "God has forsaken him; Pursue and take him, for there is none to deliver him."	Psalm 3:2 Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Selah Psalm 7:2 Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver.
v.12 Psalm 71:12 O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!	Psalm 10:1 Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? 1 Why do You hide in times of trouble? Psalm 22:11, 19 Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help. 19 But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! Psalm 35:22 This You have seen, O Lord; Do not keep silence. O Lord, do not be far from me. Psalm 38:21-22 Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! 22 Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! Psalm 40:13 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me!
v.13 Psalm 71:13 Let them be confounded and consumed Who are adversaries of my life; Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor Who seek my hurt.	Psalm 35:4, 26 Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor Who seek after my life; Let those be turned back and brought to confusion Who plot my hurt. 26 Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who rejoice at my hurt; Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor Psalm 40:14 Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who seek to destroy my life; Let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor Who wish me evil. Psalm 109:29 Let my accusers be clothed with shame, And let them cover themselves with their own disgrace as with a mantle. Who exalt themselves against me.
v.14 Psalm 71:14 14 But I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more.	Psalm 130:7 O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption.
v.15 Psalm 71:15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits.	Psalm 35:28 And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness And of Your praise all the day long. Psalm 96:2 Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Psalm 40:5 Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.
v.16 Psalm 71:16 16 I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your	Psalm 106:2 Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can declare all His praise? Psalm 51:14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

<p>righteousness, of Yours only.</p>	
<p>v.17 Psalm 71:17 O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.</p>	<p>Psalm 26:7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all Your wondrous works. Psalm 40:5 Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered. Psalm 119:27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wondrous works.</p>
<p>v.18 Psalm 71:18 18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.</p>	<p>Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 78:4, 6 We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. 5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; 6 That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children,</p>
<p>v.19 Psalm 71:19 19 Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?</p>	<p>Psalm 36:6 Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O Lord, You preserve man and beast. Psalm 57:10 For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds. Psalm 126:2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." Psalm 35:10 All my bones shall say, "Lord, who is like You, Delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, Yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?"</p>
<p>v.20 Psalm 71:20 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.</p>	<p>Psalm 60:3 You have shown Your people hard things; You have made us drink the wine of confusion. Psalm 80:18 Then we will not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. Psalm 85:6 Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? Psalm 119:25 My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word. Psalm 138:7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me. Psalm 86:13 For great is Your mercy toward me, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.</p>
<p>v.21 Psalm 71:21 21 You shall increase my greatness, And comfort me on every side.</p>	<p>Psalm 18:35 35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. Psalm 23:4 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 86:17 Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, Because You, Lord, have helped me and comforted</p>

<p>v.22 Psalm 71:22 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.</p>	<p>me. Psalm 33:2 Praise the Lord with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Psalm 81:2 Raise a song and strike the timbrel, The pleasant harp with the lute. Psalm 144:9 I will sing a new song to You, O God; On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You, Psalm 147:7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God, Psalm 78:41 Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel. Psalm 89:18 For our shield belongs to the Lord, And our king to the Holy One of Israel.</p>
<p>v.23 Psalm 71:23 23 My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, And my soul, which You have redeemed.</p>	<p>Psalm 5:11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You. Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Psalm 132:9, 16 Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, And let Your saints shout for joy. 16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy. Psalm 34:22 The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned. Psalm 55:18 He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, For there were many against me. Psalm 103:4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,</p>
<p>v.24 Psalm 71:24 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.</p>	<p>Psalm 35:28 And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness And of Your praise all the day long.</p>