

Evening Sermon – September 6, 2020

“Faith in Old Age” Psalm 71

David is not named as the Author of this Psalm, but it seems it could have been written in his old age, when he was bedridden and Adonijah tried to make himself king!

I. Confidence in God –

1. Stated from the start –

¹ In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be put to shame. Psalm 71:1 (NKJV)

2. Applied in believing (confident) prayer –

The psalmist is confident in God’s:

A. Righteous help -

² Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape; Incline Your ear to me, and save me. Psalm 71:2 (NKJV)

B. Strength as a Constant and Continuous Refuge, Rock and Fortress –

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 71:3 (NKJV)

C. Deliverance from the unrighteous –

⁴ Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. Psalm 71:4 (NKJV)

3. This confidence in God is aided by experience, and joined with praise –

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. Psalm 71:5–6 (NKJV)

II. This confidence in God is despite wonderful weakness –

⁷ I have become as a wonder to many, But You are my strong refuge. Psalm 71:7 (NKJV)

1. David died at 75, a relatively young age. Before he died, he was weak and bedridden! This would be a “wonder” meaning strange, astonishing to many because David was such a fierce, even athletic warrior when he was younger –

²⁹ For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall. Psalm 18:29 (NKJV)

Christ was such a wonder due to the beating He took, and the cross –

¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; Isaiah 52:14 (NKJV)

2. Yet God was always David’s strong refuge - ...But You are my strong refuge. Psalm 71:7 (NKJV)

David beat Goliath because of God’s power, not his own youthful strength, so there is no difference in God’s ability to help due to David’s age –

3. David prays for a mouth full of praise –

⁸ Let my mouth be filled with Your praise And with Your glory all the day. Psalm 71:8 (NKJV)

III. David’s confidence in God is despite the confidence and or strength of David’s enemies –

1. The infirmities of old age, and probably his sins, make them think God has forsaken David –

⁹ Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails. ¹⁰ For my enemies speak against me; And those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together, ¹¹ Saying, “God has forsaken him; Pursue and take him, for there is none to deliver him.” Psalm 71:9–11 (NKJV)

A. His enemies wrongly count him vulnerable

B. Their saying “for there is none to deliver him” shows they are not seeing or believing in God!

2. They will be ashamed and confounded because beaten by an old man –

¹² O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me! 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 71:12–13 (NKJV)

3. Notice the Psalmist’s great power in old age is PRAYER to God ↑

¹² O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me! Psalm 71:12

“I would rather face the armies of England than the prayers of John Knox”
Mary Queen of Scots

IV. *David's confidence in God means "hope" even in hard times and ever-increasing praise –*

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. ¹⁶ I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only. Psalm 71:14–16 (NKJV)

1. *David had seen to much, God had done too much, in his lifetime for David ever to give up hope - :14 A*
2. *Praise he says will be more and more. 14 B*
3. *David was a shepherd, he was a king, and he was a preacher of God's righteousness and salvation - :15 A*
4. *He did not know the "limits" of God's righteousness and salvation, why? These things have no limits ...*

²⁷ **The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, 'Destroy!' Deuteronomy 33:27 (NKJV)**

5. *:16 Strengths –*

Verse 16.—*"The strengths of the Lord God."* The power of God is expressed in the plural number, to show the greatness of it, which is as a garrison to the believer.—*John Gill.*

V. *David's confidence in God is because of a long-term relationship –*

¹⁷ O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this *day* I declare Your wondrous works. 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. Psalm 71:17–18 (NKJV)

1. *From youth to old age - :17-18, this is another indication this is David!*

"who can think of all this and not pray for special grace for himself, should he live to see those days of infirmity and weakness? And who, in view of such infirmities, can fail to see the propriety of seeking the favor of God in early years?"
—*Albert Barnes.*

2. *What a blessed thing it is to have a long relationship with the God of the universe –*
³¹ **What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31**

VI. *There is praise here for everything God does from righteousness to the resurrection: David's? Christ's? The Son of David?*

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. ²¹ You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side. Psalm 71:19–21 (NKJV)**

1. *The history of God's dealing with His people - You who have done great things - :19*
2. *Our God has no competition - O God, who is like You? :19 B*
3. *Great and severe troubles? David? Christ?*
4. *Revive And bring me up again from the depths of the earth. :20*
5. *:21 if this is David, perhaps he is seeing Solomon's kingdom or Christ's?*

Verse 21.—Greatness increasing with comfort, and comfort increasing with greatness; very rarely united.—*George Rogers.*

VII. *David uses what he has, even to the end, to praise God –*

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. Psalm 71:22–24 (NKJV)**

Another indication that this is David's Psalm is the mention of the harp. David played that as a youth and here (if this is David) still in his old age ...

Verse 23.—*"My lips;" "my soul."* Hypocrites praise God with the *"lips"* only; but David joins the *soul* to the lips.

—*William Nicholson.*

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