

Psalm 71

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Life is a great teacher. And a life devoted to God has a front row seat to the Master Teacher. Here the psalmist's devotion to God equips him to face troubled and bitter times. As we meet him at the end of his life, we become benefactors of the lessons that he learned. We can learn how to leave a similar legacy, which will make others marvel at God.

Life-long Confidence (verses 1-3)

In whom do I place my confidence? Who will always be there for me? We quickly offer the Sunday School answer, "God," but an honest answer ~~is~~ can be hard to give. Are we really willing to do a heart examination?

For many years, I placed my confidence in my husband and in our life together. Coming in second place was my best friend. It was easy to place my confidence in these two because they loved and cared about what happened to me. They were always dependable, so running to them as a refuge was second nature to me. My confidence rested in my husband and best friend because I did not believe the Lord really cared about the details of my life. But as my faith matured, I began to see the fallacy of my beliefs. My developing faith exposed me to the truth that God cared—even more than my husband and friend. And this truth silenced the lie I once believed. Contrary to what I had believed, God really did care about every detail of my life.

Read Matthew 6:26-27.

How can we be certain that we are valuable to God?

This confidence will enable us to take our relationship with God from our head to our heart. And in a heart relationship with God, we will experience His sufficiency in times of troubles and come to appreciate the sovereignty of His plans.

Lifelong Trust (verses 5-8)

Many of us can trace the birth of our faith back to the days of our youth. Yet even if we can't, a heart relationship with God cultivates a confident trust which ~~A confident trust~~ rejoices in God's unconditional love, accepts His unlimited forgiveness, and counts on His unrestricted restoration.

Read Psalm 71:20.

How can this verse give confidence and cultivate our trust in God?

Lifelong Praise (verses 14-15)

Will praise is future tense, and it is a choice. The psalmist uses the verb "*will*" to declare his trust ~~in~~ that God ~~to~~ will see him through the present difficulty. He has been an eye witness to

God's faithfulness, so he can confidently vow to praise Him more and more. Past trust in God lays the groundwork for future praise.

In the uncertainty of my future, I tend complain more and more instead of praise more and more. There may be some praises peppered in, but I don't always promise ~~of~~ to praise more and more. But the more I praise, the less I complain. And the more I praise, the more I praise. Are you with me? Praise gives birth to more praise.

Read Deuteronomy 10:21.

For what reason should we offer praise?

Name a "wonder" He has done before your eyes and write it down. (Turn the paper over if you need more space.)

Lifelong Student (verses 17-18)

God has been trying to teach me, since my youth, but I have not always been willing to learn. I have been rebellious, resistant, stubborn, and self-willed. So God has put people in my path to soften my stubbornness and break down my resistance. He has used my sweet friend, Kristi, to teach me the importance of spending time in His Word every day. He has used His Word to show me the usefulness of His Word. And though I did not, and still ~~not~~-don't, fully understand everything I read, now I joyfully remain open to be taught.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

How is God's Word useful?

Building a history of choosing to trust God helps us trust God more and more in the future. This is a life that others will call a marvel (See verse 7). This is the life I want to live. What about you?