

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SENIOR BELIEVERS

Psalm 71:1-24

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: From birth to death life is filled with excitements, trials, disappointments, tragedies, struggles and such and it seems the older one gets the more difficult it becomes to handle life's events. Reassurance is very encouraging to those seniors who are struggling with life's situations and one of the best sources of reassurance for the Christian is God's Word. Psalm 71 is an ideal source of encouragement and reassurance for everyone but especially for those in their senior years. For it reminds them of the best source of encouragement for all things.

I. SENIOR BELIEVERS HAVE PUT THEIR WHOLE LIVES INTO THE HANDS OF THE LORD

1. v1 - *"In thee, O Lord, do (have) I put my trust..."*
 - Trust has been put in God, the Father.
 - Trust has been put in God, the Son.
 - Trust has been put in God, the Holy Spirit.
2. Trust has been put into God's Word.
 - In God's teachings.
 - In God's promises.

II. SENIOR BELIEVERS KNOW THAT SALVATION IS THEIR GREATEST NEED

1. v1 - *"...Let me never be put into confusion..."*
 - The older one gets, the more life becomes unclear at times and confusion may set in.
2. v2 - *"...Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me and save me..."*
 - Seniors want help, deliverance from all the trials, temptations and troubles that come but they want God to get the glory and honor.
 - Seniors know that *"...If we (they) confess our (their) sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us (them) our (their) sins and to cleanse us (them) from all unrighteousness..."*
 - They want God to snatch them out of trouble, to open closed doors and to save them.
3. v3 - *"...Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort; thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress..."*
 - Senior believers have found God as their dwelling place and is their rock and fortress and Jesus is the refuge to whom they turn to.
4. v4 - *"...Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man..."*
 - Seniors believers know that God is on their side, on the side of every believer.
 - As God delivered Jesus out of the hand of Satan, so He delivers believers also out of the hand of Satan and the hands of unrighteous and cruel people.

III. SENIOR BELIEVERS HAVE EXPERIENCED GOD'S GRACE IN THEIR LIVES

1. vv 5-8
 - They know that their only hope is in Jesus Christ from the moment of their salvation.
 - They know that God has protected and provided for them all their lives.
 - They know that Jesus Christ, indeed, is their ONLY refuge and to Him they flee.
 - They praise the Lord and honor Him every day of their lives.

IV. SOME SENIORS ARE CONCERNED THAT GOD MAY ABANDON THEM IN THEIR OLD YEARS

1. vv9-13

- Senior believers know that they haven't done all they could have or should have during their lifetime and have thoughts that God might no longer need them and just walk away.
- IF God ever did cast a person off, there would be NO hope for that person's soul.
- God WILL NEVER cast off any person who has believed in Jesus
- Age robs of beauty, strength, family, friends, dreams, hearing, memory but it will never rob the aged believer of God.
- Sadly, many think that God has left them as He did Jesus when on the cross, but God's nearness is the aging believer's security.

V. THE OLDER A BELIEVER GROWS, THE MORE HIS/HER HEART SHOULD BE DETERMINED

1. vv14-16

- The older a believer gets, the more determination and hope he/she has in the Gospel.
- Senior believers have more reason to praise God than those younger than they are.
 - There is no way for one to keep up with all that God has done for him/her and older believers are aware of that.
 - Senior believers were saved, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, equipped with a special gift to be used in the Lord's work and all their saved lives they have experienced God's work around them and through them.
 - Senior believers have experienced the strength of the Lord in their years of being saved and have more reason and cause to praise the Lord God than those who are younger.

VI. SENIOR BELIEVERS WANT THE YOUNGER BELIEVERS TO KNOW GOD AS THEY HAVE

1. vv 17-18

- The senior believer has experienced God's greatness for many years and what they have learned about God needs to be passed on to the younger believers.
- One last great thing senior believers can do in their fading years is to pass on to the younger believers their experiences with the Lord and give encouragement to them, reminding them that no matter what, God will never forsake them nor cast them out and that they can always be of service to God in some way as long as they live.

VII. SENIOR BELIEVERS SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN GOD THAN ANYONE ELSE

1. vv19-24

- Senior believers have learned not to trust in themselves nor in their experiences in life but to put all their trust and confidence in the Lord God.
- Senior believers have learned that the trials and troubles in their lives worked to bring them closer to the Lord and that He delivered them from all things.
 - ***Romans 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:9***
- Senior believers know that when they stand before God, they have Jesus Christ there with them and that they are accepted by God only by the blood of Jesus, and are robed in Jesus' righteousness for they have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit of the Lord.
- Senior believers know that when they do stand before God, their earthly lives are over and they are free from all the trials, difficulties and troubles they have experienced all their lives on earth.

CONCLUSION:

1. Of all the people on earth who should be encouragers to others it is the senior adult believers for they have experienced what life can give out and they have experienced God's grace in their lives helping them through all that life has thrown at them.
2. Senior believers need to be encouraged now and then for many think their lives have been useless and worthless.
3. Senior believers are a strength and encouragement to the Church to which they belong.
4. IF YOU are a senior adult and a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are still useful to the Lord, there is still much you can do.
5. Senior believer, don't ever quit! Only when the Lord calls you home will your work for Him be over.