

Psalm 71 (PS. 71:1-3 and Ps. 31:1-3 are almost the same)

Since I've trusted You, please save me

¹ O LORD, I have trusted in You and found safety and security. Please don't let me be ashamed that I put my faith in You. ² Please listen intently to my prayer for help, rescue me in keeping with Your righteousness, and then free me from future attacks and harassment by my enemies. ³ I pray that You will continually be the place I can come for real safety and security. I believe You have commanded that I am to be rescued because You are my stability and You are my protection. ⁴⁻⁵ Therefore, since You are my hope, please deliver me from those who are cruel and show no pity or compassion¹. It is only right for You to do this because they treat me so wrongfully and unjustly. I ask this because You are my hope, and I have had confidence in You since I was a child. ⁶ In fact, I have leaned upon You ever since You brought me into the world, and I continually praise You.

Please don't discard me

⁷ Since You are such a strong and secure place of safety and security, a lot of people marvel that You have kept me safe from the countless attacks that have come my way. ⁸ All day long I praise and magnify You for Your greatness and glory. ⁹ I am getting up in age now, so please don't discard me like a piece of trash when I grow old and feeble. ¹⁰ I really need Your help because my enemies talk badly about me, and as a group they put their heads together to come up with new and better ways to try to kill me. ¹¹ They say to each other, "His God has abandoned him, and there is no one who will rescue him from us. Let's chase him down and kill the rascal." ¹² LORD, please don't stand a long way off from me, but rescue me instead. I really need Your help, and I need it right now! ¹³ Since my adversaries seek to injure me, let them come to a disastrous end. Yes, let them experience the shame and disgrace they deserve.

Please don't abandon me in old age

¹⁴ LORD, they can do what they feel they must and endure the consequences, but as for me, I will continually place my hope in You and praise You more and more. ¹⁵ All day long I will tell about Your salvation and Your righteous acts even though there are so many of them that I could not count them in my lifetime. ¹⁶ I will live my life strengthened and encouraged by the knowledge of the mighty deeds You have done. I will tell others about Your righteousness and Yours alone. ¹⁷ LORD, You have taught me from my youth to trust You and to tell people about the wonderful things You have done. ¹⁸ Now that I am old and gray-headed please don't forsake me. Instead, allow me to live long enough to tell this new generation about Your strength, Your power to save, and Your ability to keep them like You have kept me. ¹⁹ After all, Your righteousness, Your power, and Your reputation for doing great things are so vast that they extend beyond the farthest reaches of the universe.

Please save me, and I will sing praises to You

²⁰ You have chosen for me to experience many troubles and calamities. Will You please give me new strength and encouragement by rescuing me from all of my troubles? ²¹ Please make me great again and comfort me by rescuing me from these troubles. ²²⁻²³ If You do, I will shout for joy and sing praises about Your wonderful name and Your truth. My songs will be accompanied by beautiful music from stringed instruments, and I will sing about how You have redeemed me. ²⁴ My mouth will tell of Your righteousness all day long because You will have disappointed and humiliated those who desired to hurt me. What a wonderful Savior!

¹ Definition of "Ruthless", www.dictionary.com/browse/ruthless