PSALM

71

LXXI

Aged Confidence

Writer not named · Book II

PICTURE WORD
Gray Hair

IN ONE SENTENCE

From youth to gray hair, I trust God, my rock, and ask him not to forsake me when I am old.

Remember it: Seventy-one: from cradle to gray hair, tell the next generation God is faithful.

MEMORY VERSE

Yes, even when I am old and gray-haired,
God, don't forsake me, until I have declared
your strength to the next generation, your
might to everyone who is to come.

Psalm 71:18 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

וְשֵׂיבָה

"gray hair" · verse 18

In the Psalms: twice, in 2 psalms

שֵׂיבָה means "gray hair" and so old age itself. Proverbs calls gray hair a crown of glory, and the Law tells Israel to rise before the gray-headed. Here the old singer asks for one more assignment: to declare God's strength to the generation still to come.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–8	God has been my refuge and hope since birth.
9–13	Do not forsake me in old age while enemies plot.
14–18	I will keep hoping and tell the next generation.
19–24	Who is like you? I will praise you with harp and song.

MY NOTES

Listen. Hear Psalm 71 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at **ispress.de/psalms/71**.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

God Will Not Abandon You · Praise & Thanksgiving

FILL IN THE BLANKS

From _____ to gray hair, I trust God, my _____, and ask him not to forsake me when I am _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. Since when has the psalmist relied on God?

- (A) Since the womb
- (B) Since his wedding
- (C) Since the war
- (D) Since last year

2. What do his enemies say about him?

- (A) "He is a liar."
- (B) "He is too old to fight."
- (C) "God has forsaken him."
- (D) "He has many friends."

3. Why does he ask God not to forsake him when he is gray?

- (A) So he can rebuild his house
- (B) So he can see his enemies punished
- (C) So he can retire in peace
- (D) So he can declare God's strength to the next generation

TALK IT OVER

1. Trace the stages of life the psalmist mentions, from womb to old age.

2. What does this psalm teach about God's faithfulness over a whole lifetime?

3. What older believer has told you of God's works, and whom will you tell?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 71 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
- ☐ I can say what it teaches
- ☐ I can say verse 18 by heart
- ☐ I know the picture word

Answers Blanks: youth · rock · old · Check yourself: 1. A (v. 6) · 2. C (v. 11) · 3. D (v. 18)