

Faith and the Long View



The Tongue of the Aged

In our study on the book of James we have seen how important it is to have our tongue under the

control of God. As James says, “No man can tame the tongue.”

However, God has created the tongue for the purpose of giving praise and glory to Him. Psalm 71 gives us the ‘long-view’ of a life that trusts in God and declares His works and mighty power through an entire lifetime. Here are the highlights of Psalm 71:

*For You are my rock and my fortress.
For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;
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.
You are my trust from my youth.
Do not cast me off in the time of old age
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.
O God, You have taught me from my youth;
And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.
Now also when I am old and grayheaded,
O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to this generation,
Your power to everyone who is to come!*

Oh the wonder and majesty of these words! From conception (*Psalm 139*) God has had His hand upon us. He was there through our birth and youth. And He gives us strength when our strength fails us because of growing old.

So what is my response to God’s life-long grace? I will ‘**declare**’ (*speak out with my tongue*) all the wondrous works that God has done for me through the years. But even more than that—I will ‘**declare**’ God’s strength and power to my generation and then to all the generations behind me.

The aged psalmist asks God for a ministry! The ministry of ‘**declaring**’ the things of God to all the generations. It’s as if he was saying, “Don’t take me home God until I **declare** You to everyone I know.”

Famous Final Words

After a long life or at the end of life—what do people have to say?

Jacob

Gen 49:1-27

:1 And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

:2 "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.

Joshua

Josh 24:1-28

:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Samson

Jud 16:28-30

:28 Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, "O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one *blow* take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"

David

2 Sam 23:1-7

:2 "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word *was* on my tongue.

:3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men *must be* just, Ruling in the fear of God.

Stephen

Acts 7:2-53; 56, 59