Psalm 71 Prayer of an Old Man for Rescue.

In You, Lord, I have taken refuge; Let me never be put to shame. 2 In Your righteousness rescue me and save me; Extend Your ear to me and help me. 3 Be to me a rock of dwelling to which I may continually come;
You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress.

4 Save me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, From the grasp of the wrongdoer and the ruthless,
5 For You are my hope; Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth. 6 I have leaned on You since my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb; My praise is continually of You.

7 I have become a marvel to many, For You are my strong refuge. 8 My mouth is filled with Your praise
And with Your glory all day long. 9 Do not cast me away at the time of my old age; Do not abandon me when my strength fails.

10 For my enemies have spoken against me; And those who watch for my life have consulted together,
11 Saying, "God has abandoned him; Pursue and seize him, for there is no one to save him." 12 God, do not be far from me; My God, hurry to my aid! 13 May those who are enemies of my soul be put to shame and consumed; May they be covered with disgrace and dishonour, who seek to injure me.

14 But as for me, I will wait continually And will praise You yet more and more. 15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And of Your salvation all day long; For I do not know the art of writing. 16 I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

17 God, You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds.
18 And even when I am old and grey, God, do not abandon me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come. 19 For Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens, You who have done great things; God, who is like You?

20 You who have shown me many troubles and distresses Will revive me again, And will bring me up again from the depths of the earth. 21 May You increase my greatness And turn to comfort me.

22 I will also praise You with a harp, And Your truth, my God; I will sing praises to You with the lyre,
Holy One of Israel. 23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You; And my soul, which You have redeemed.

24 My tongue also will tell of Your righteousness all day long; For they are put to shame, for they are humiliated who seek my harm.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character

Paul's observations and insights

1. What makes a good prayer?
2. How do you become 'successful' in prayer?
3. If you know God is worth running to in times of trouble, you will keep coming back to Him!
4. How is God David's 'refuge'?
5. Does God extend His ear to your prayers?

6. For God to be ‘our rock’, is for us to know He can be trusted.
7. Once God has said something - it is done, even if it isn’t yet seen, it’s done!
8. If you yourself are amongst the wicked, will God still save you when you call out to Him?
9. Without building a history with God, you won’t know if He will rescue you.
10. For David, that was not going to be a problem - David knew God from his youth.
11. Can you say, like David, ‘my praise is continually on You’?
12. How do you become ‘a worshiper of God’?
13. Is your mouth filled continually with praise to God?
14. Can you imagine, God would cast you away from protection, at the time of your old age?
15. Would God abandon David when he was without strength?
16. It’s not God who has brought bad things into your life - things sometimes go wrong!
17. How do you overcome your enemies as a Christian?
18. If you forget God in times of trouble, or make God your enemy, you will self-destruct.
19. David says, ‘may those who are enemies of my soul’ - that’s the power of evil attacking you.
20. David wants them to be put to shame and consumed, is that okay?
21. He wants his enemies covered with disgrace - our struggle is not against man but against ‘spirit of evil’.
22. He has learned to wait, no matter how long it takes to be rescued by God.
23. He has learned to use the weapon of praise in his time of waiting.
24. He says, ‘my mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and salvation all day long’ - he is sending faith off to work.
25. Remembering what God has done for us, is where we gain the strength to carry on winning battles.
26. From his youth, David had encounters with God and His salvation, in troubled times.
27. Those experiences have become his teacher.

28. ‘Even in times of great trials, I will still declare Your great, powerful and wondrous deeds’.
29. All David ever wanted to do was to see God glorified in the nations of the world.
30. ‘When I am old and grey, God, do not abandon me’ - are we less when we are old?
31. David knows there is no-one like God, no-one anywhere like God!
32. David is not afraid to ask God to release him from his suffering, or to exhort him.
33. Singing, is how David expressed his love for God.
34. Speaking words of truth about God brought David courage.
35. The redemption of the soul, even a part of the soul, is a beautiful thing, it restores our innocence.
36. Giving testimony about Gods interventions in your life is an act of worship.