

From his advanced location in the course of life, this psalmist is able to impart several key lessons for the life of faith

First, a strong faith in and devotion to God is no fail-safe insurance against problems and complications in life.

Second, the psalmist affirms that it is God's very nature to provide refuge, deliverance, and rescue to those whom he calls his own and to service in his name.

Third, we learn from the psalmist that we are wholly dependent on God.

Finally, a significant aspect of our lives should be the praise of God.

Hear now:

### **Psalm 71:1-6 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup>In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;  
turn your ear to me and save me.

<sup>3</sup>Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;  
give the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.

<sup>4</sup>Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

<sup>5</sup>For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD,  
my confidence since my youth.

<sup>6</sup>From birth I have relied on you;  
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.  
I will ever praise you.

## **Luke 4:13-30 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

<sup>14</sup>Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup>He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>20</sup>Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup>He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

<sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"

<sup>24</sup>"Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup>I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup>Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup>And there were many in Israel with leprosy<sup>[b]</sup> in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

<sup>28</sup>All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.