

HOW CLOSE  
DO YOU WANT  
GOD TO BE?

PSALM 71:12-16

# I. Background

## Psalm 71:9-11

**9 Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.**

**10 For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together,**

**11 Saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him.**

## **II. Two Requests For God (71:12)**

### **Psalm 71:12**

**O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help.**

**A. Be not far from me**

**James 4:8**

**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.**

**Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.**

## **II. Two Requests For God (71:12)**

### **B. Make haste for my help**

#### **You Have To Ask**

#### **Psalm 31:2**

**Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.**

#### **Hebrews 4:16**

**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

# **III. Two Reasons For The Request (71:13)**

## **Psalm 71:13**

**Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt.**

**A. There are adversaries to my soul**

## **Exodus 23:22**

**But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.**

# **III. Two Reasons For The Request (71:13)**

## **B. There are seekers to my hurt**

### **1. They are always around**

**1 Corinthians 16:9**

**For a great door and effectual is opened unto me,  
and there are many adversaries.**

### **2. They are constantly at work**

**Psalm 38:12**

**They also that seek after my life lay snares for me:  
and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous  
things, and imagine deceits all the day long.**

## **Psalm 71:14-16**

**14 But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.**

**15 My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.**

**16 I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.**

# **IV. Seven Vows To Get Close To God**

## **(71:14-16)**

**A. But I will hope continually**

**B. I will yet praise thee more and more**

**C. My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness**

**D. (My mouth) shall shew forth thy salvation all the day**

**E. I will not count the number of times I praise or shew forth righteousness and salvation**

**F. I will go in the strength of the Lord God**

**G. I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only**

HOW CLOSE  
TO GOD  
ARE YOU?

