

Prayer for Illumination

God, through Your Spirit, place Your Words on our lips; Your grace in our hearts. Amen

Psalm 71:1-6, 15-18 *From the womb ... God*

In You, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In Your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn Your ear to me and save me.

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.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

For You have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.

From birth I have relied on You; You brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise You.

My mouth will tell of Your righteous deeds, of Your saving acts all day long – though I know not how to relate them all.

I will come and proclaim Your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD; I will proclaim Your righteous deeds, Yours alone.

Since my youth, God, You have taught me, and to this day I declare Your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare Your power to the next generation, Your mighty acts to all who are to come.

Amen

Jeremiah 1:4-10 *Appointed by God*

The Word of the LORD came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations”.

“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young”.

But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young’. You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

Then the LORD reached out His hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put My Words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to

uproot and tear down,
to destroy and overthrow,
to build and to plant”.

Amen