

25 Observations on Growing Old

Why it happens and how to respond

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- 1. Aging is the result of Adam's sin, the fall, the curse** (*Genesis 2:17, 3:19*). The effects of sin are at work inside of me until the day of my glorification. What is going on inside of me is seen on the outside – how I look and behave. Therefore, I will learn to hate sin, and rejoice in my Redeemer's death for and victory over sin.
- 2. Aging is not limited to those created in God's image.** The entire universe is winding down (*Isaiah 50:9, 51:6; Psalm 102:25-26*), but God's strength is never diminished (vs. 27)! Therefore, I will remember that when I am weak God is as strong as He has always been.
- 3. God is always at work in my life revealing Himself and keeping His promises.** I may not have as dramatic an experience as Abraham and Sarah, but I can still laugh (*Genesis 17:17, 18:12, 21:6*). "Isaac" means laughter. Therefore, I will not be remembered after I'm gone as being cranky, grumpy, and mean when I was old.
- 4. Aging diminishes my senses.** There may be those who want to take advantage of me – even those as close as a wife and son (*Genesis 27*) – yet God still keeps His word, and those individuals will experience the consequences of their sin. Therefore, I will trust God instead of worrying about what might be or what has been.
- 5. God places my children in the place of His choosing to meet my needs when I am older.** I may not like Egypt, but it is better than starving in Canaan, and God is still keeping His promises to me (*Genesis 48:3*). Therefore, I will humbly and gladly accept my children's help.
- 6. God sometimes waits until I'm well advanced in years to do His greatest work through me.** Moses was 80 when God met him at the burning bush (*Exodus 3; Acts 7:23, 30*). Therefore, I will not despise herding sheep nor be surprised when He calls my name!
- 7. Old age is the time to gather young people around me and impart wisdom and counsel to them** (*Joshua 23-24; Titus 2:3; Psalm 71:18, 78:1-4*). Therefore, I will write things down and schedule times to meet with people and humbly and excitedly say to them, "Please listen to what I have to say."
- 8. Old age can be a very productive time in my walk with God** (*Psalm 92:14*). Therefore, I will believe this, and pray this, and look for opportunities to glorify Him.
- 9. Old age can also be marred by committing sin.** Noah got drunk (*Genesis 9:20-23*), Abraham relinquished his headship and slept with Hagar (*Genesis 16*), Moses lost his temper (*Numbers 20:7-13*), and Solomon turned to idolatry (*1 Kings 11:1-8*). Therefore, I will memorize *1 Corinthians 10:13* and *Proverbs 16:18* and be careful.
- 10. Old age is hard on the body.** Glasses, joint replacement, new teeth, and hearing aids are common to all (*Ecclesiastes 12:1-7*). But life is more than my body. I am more than my flesh and my emotions. I am an eternal spirit who just happens to be temporarily housed in this decaying body. Therefore, I shall look forward in great anticipation to being released (*2 Corinthians 5:1-6*) and refitted (*1 Corinthians 15:43, 44*)!
- 11. Grandchildren are highly prized possessions.** Their appearance is my induction to royalty, my coronation day (*Proverbs 17:6*). Therefore, I will pray for them, encourage them to live for the Lord, be a godly example to them, and promise not to undermine my children's authority, degrade them, or gossip about their parenting skills. I will remind myself that I raised them.
- 12. Old age can be a painful time for reaping seed sown in youth** (*Proverbs 19:20*). Therefore, I will stop complaining about my



circumstances and be honest and admit to myself, others, and the Lord I did not always listen when I was young.

13. Old age has a unique beauty all its own

(*Proverbs 20:25*). Therefore, I will not succumb to the temptations of vanity, pride, and covering over that I condemn in the pagans who are only concerned about the body.

14. Un-confessed sin can hasten the aging process

(*Psalms 32:3*). Therefore, I will repent and make restitution where possible, and not allow my pride or fear to intensify my pain and hasten my death.

15. I am to honor my father and mother

(*Exodus 20:1, Proverbs 23:22*). Aging sometimes makes this difficult, (my finances, their un-cooperation, emotional strain on both of us). Therefore, since my children are always watching me, I need to be careful of how I treat my parents. I will reap what I sow.

16. Everything God does has purpose, including death

(*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*). Death was not “good” (*Genesis 1:31*). It was an intrusion that He allowed into His creation for reasons only known to Himself. Death now comes to all, by appointment (*Romans 3:23, 6:23; Hebrews 9:27*), therefore I have peace that God is in control of my dying and knows when and how it will take place (*Psalms 31:15, 37:18*). Death is the means of transportation to His presence (*Luke 16:22*) and He is with me when I die (*Psalms 23:4, 48:14*). “Death is the bus that takes me home, and God is driving the bus!”

17. God knows every doctor appointment, every procedure, every prescription, every shooting pain . . . because He knows the very hairs of my head

(*Matthew 10:30*). Therefore, I will not allow pain to discourage my heart to say things such as, “God doesn’t care,” because that is untrue (*1 Peter 5:7*) and is evidence of unbelief.

18. Aging involves pain, but pain need not hinder me from being a help, encouragement, and blessing to others.

His seven last sayings on the cross demonstrate that Jesus was more concerned about others, and about obedience to His Father’s will than with relief from pain. Therefore, I will strive to keep my eyes on Him who suffered for me (*Hebrews 12:2*) and on the needs of others around me (*Philippians 2:4*).

19. Pain can be managed and we should seek to alleviate people’s pain because Jesus did

(*Proverbs 31:6; Matthew 27:34 & 48, 9:35*). If I’m only concerned about not hurting – to the exclusion of all else – this has become my idol, has taken the place of my love for God, and is sin (*1 John 5:21*). Therefore, I will love God more than I love relief from pain.

20. Old age is a good time for asking questions.

Am I really saved (*Romans 10:9-10, 13*)? Do I really believe in the delights of heaven (*Revelation 21-22*)? Am I looking forward to seeing Jesus (*Philippians 1:21-23*)? Therefore, I will take some time to ask these questions and evaluate how I am behaving according to what I say I believe.

21. Aging is death at work in the body.

I am commanded to use my body to glorify God (*Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*). Therefore, I will continue to take care of it by eating right, exercising, and listening to those who are trying to help me.

22. There are no old people in heaven, except the Ancient of Days

(*Daniel 7:9, 13, 22*). There is no aging in heaven because there is no death (*Revelation 21:4*)! Jesus conquered death; death has no sting (*1 Corinthians 15*). Death is not the end, but the passageway to eternal life, therefore, I will not fear death.

23. My aging means that death is coming.

My death is an occasion of joy for my Father (*Psalms 116:15*). Therefore, I will anticipate my death with joy also.

24. The great commission is given to followers of Jesus

(*Matthew 28:18-20*). The commission says nothing about age requirements or restrictions. Therefore, I shall look at every physician and caregiver as a soul for whom Christ died, pray for them, and talk to them about my “going home.”

25. Slowing down is not the same as stopping.

Aging limits what I can do, but I can still do. I am commanded to be faithful to the end (*1 Corinthians 15:58*). Therefore, I will not live for myself but continue to live for Him by faith until I see Him by sight.