

# The Advantages of Aging

As a youth, I distinctly remember an elderly relative often saying "It's tough to get old." I respectfully listened, but gave it little thought. Now that I officially qualify as "elderly" (71 years old) and am what some call a "senior saint", what my relative used to say comes into better focus. But if he was really right, then what does "The glory of the young is their strength; and the grey hair of experience is the splendor of the old" (Proverbs 20:29, NLT) mean?

In this Ministry Monograph, I would like to encourage senior saints with some of the advantages of aging. The obvious place to start would be with the eternal perspective of life as presented in II Timothy 4:7-8. The apostle Paul summarized the Christian's life with the following phrases:

*I have fought the good fight.  
I have finished the race.  
I have kept the faith.  
Now a crown is in store.  
Which Christ will award me on that day.*

This passage encourages us to think of growing older in life as "transitioning" from being earthbound to being free in heaven. Retiring becomes a time of refocusing again on our eternal priorities and privileges. The Christian life is never to be about limits, but rather the opportunities God provides along the way. How might this opportunity-motivated perspective be lived out in the life of a senior saint today? Here is a brief list of some of the ministry advantages we have as we age and await our ultimate transition into the glories and rewards of heaven and the eternal presence of God.

## **Understanding History and Movements**

One advantage of aging is the opportunity to place our experiences and church ministries into perspective and assist younger folks as they lead us into the future. Being available to share this perspective can be very helpful to a church.

## **Be Your Pastor's Best Friend**

Pastoral ministry can sometimes seem lonely and pressure-packed. Most pastors would love to have some non-political friends in their life that they could joke with, ask for prayer, and depend on to assist them with physical projects and errands around the church. Being retired will allow even more time to enjoy this opportunity.

## **Being a "Prayer Warrior"**

The longer we have known the Lord Jesus Christ, the easier it becomes to spend time praying for others. Since Christians and churches are continually engaged in either spiritual warfare or a search for guidance, the senior saint with an active and growing ministry of intercession is of great value in the Body of Christ.

## **Being the Ultimate Host**

Hospitality is one of the key ministries that is both encouraged and chronicled in the pages of the NT. The exciting thing in relation to hospitality is that aging seems to make some people more effective at it. A warm home atmosphere, delicious cooking, fascinating stories, and relaxed time schedules all enable good hosting. Hosting is enjoyable, and aging seems to make us better at it.

This has been a very brief treatment of a subject that could take many pages to record. ChristWay Ministries is making a new seminar available to churches that expands on this ministry entitled, "Finishing Strong". If you would like more details and to see what is covered, simply read the following section and click "Finishing Strong" as suggested.

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