

Voices: Continuing to serve God while aging

October 9, 2023

Aging does not have to mean reducing our service to the Lord.

As I recently filled out my health history at my new heart specialist's office, I reminded myself I have gray hair and crepey skin, and my weight loss program is not cutting it anymore.

Richard Stefanacci [defines aging](#) in the *Merck Manual* as “a gradual, continuous process of natural change that begins in early adulthood.” He believes becoming old is answered by looking at our chronological, biological and psychological age.

But nothing is mentioned about our spiritual age, which I think is a significant matter.

Let's consider why some believers discontinue working for the Lord as they age, and the importance of renewing a relationship with the Lord until one's body or cognition completely disappears.

Reasons our service diminishes with age

Multiple factors influence why aging folks cease working heartily, grow weary or drop out of church altogether. Some are physical limitations, such as driving restrictions or change in living location. In other cases, medical reasons such as eyesight, hearing and mobility issues affect one's ability to serve.

However, some offer frivolous “reasons” for spiritual inactivity. They may believe the pastor isn’t “feeding” them anymore or feel worthless or left out at church. Others lose focus and fall away from the one true path, instead enjoying a sinful lifestyle or becoming distracted by golfing, lake houses and stock investments.

These circumstances and interferences can make serving the Lord challenging. This is understandable.

Fortunately, many still can experience a godly presence where they are.

Hope and renewal

If you fit into the category of one who has lost the joy of your salvation but wants to experience God again, there is hope.

In *Experiencing the Presence of God*, the late pastor A.W. Tozer states, “When we lift our inward eyes to gaze upon God, we are sure to meet friendly eyes gazing back at us” (p. 58).

Praise God if you have served him faithfully your entire Christian life and continue to do so by serving, studying the Bible, meditating and seeking him.

But if you have been a “pew sitter” for most of your Christian life, or one who has strayed or drifted from the Lord, understand there is no age limit where you can’t seek God again.

Death is inevitable. One never knows when that final day will come upon us.

A few years ago, on the day a new season was to start in my life, I fell headfirst down 13 wooden stairs. A trip to the emergency room confirmed a concussion. I had read enough to know many such falls are fatal.

Deep in my spirit during my recovery period, the Lord revealed the experience was to show me he was not finished with me yet. I needed that word to keep going and not waste my life on triviality.

God is not through with you, either.

You may have messed up. However, the Lord wants you to kindle afresh your life, and it can be done. He will come along and pick you up right where you are. And he can and wants to do it today. It is not too late. Your age is irrelevant to God. He wants you to return to the fold.

How to renew your relationship with the Lord

Decide, today, you want your life to be pleasing in his sight. Surrender as completely as you can to the Lord. Decide to live righteously. Repent and confess specifically the sins you have committed.

Avoid things that seek to take God's place in your heart. Pursue God in all areas of your life.

Ask God to give you a hunger for his word. Read your Bible, seek his will, and pray daily.

Allow the Lord to speak to you through his word and his Holy Spirit. Thank the Lord for a second, third or fourth chance for allowing his presence in your life.

Here I am, Lord

The prophet Isaiah said to the Lord: "Here am I. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8 NASB).

The Lord used Isaiah powerfully, pleading for repentance and a restored life for the people of Judah.

If God could use Isaiah during a time of profound sinning among the people, he also can use you.

As a restored believer, you may be surprised at the circumstances God may place in your life. Ask God to show them to you, and then act upon his direction.

In my life, I have seen how one act of obedience leads me to the next experience or training I need from him, and the process snowballs year after year. Gradually, you will notice the fruits of the Spirit emerging in your life (Galatians 5:22-23 NASB).

Paul wrote: “Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14-15 NASB).

As for me, I will continue using my age-renewing crepe-corrector body lotion, because the tube says it will visibly improve my skin, but that is for the external “me.” But, I am more concerned with the internal, and I pray you will be, too.

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