

The Crown of Glory: Why Getting Older Is God's Greatest Blessing

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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We live in a culture that is terrified of the calendar. We treat aging like a disease that needs to be cured, or at least hidden. We spend billions of dollars on creams, dyes, surgeries, and supplements, all with one desperate goal: to stop time. We worship youth. We believe that our value peaks at 25 and slowly declines into irrelevance.

Society tells you that getting older means Loss.

- * Loss of beauty.
- * Loss of strength.
- * Loss of relevance.
- * Loss of opportunity.

But the Bible presents a radically different view. Scripture does not view aging as a tragedy; it views it as a Trophy. Proverbs 16:31 says, *"Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness."*

God does not see the wrinkles of the face as signs of decay; He sees them as etchings of wisdom. He does not see the slowing of the body as a curse; He sees it as the necessary quieting of the soul so that it can finally hear His voice.

If you are reading this and you have felt the pang of insecurity as you look in the mirror—if you have felt the fear of being "put out to pasture"—it is time to change your lens. You are not declining; you are ascending. You are not fading; you are ripening.

Today, we are going to explore the 7 Spiritual Blessings of Aging. We are going to look at why the "afternoon" of life is actually the time of greatest fruitfulness. We are going to discover that while the outer man is decaying, the inner man is being renewed day by day.

Number 1: The Death of the Imposter — The Freedom to Be Real

The greatest burden of youth is the burden of Pretense.

When we are young, we are desperate to fit in. We are desperate to be liked. We build a "False Self"—a persona constructed to please our parents, our peers, and our bosses. We wear masks. We pretend to like things we don't like. We pretend to agree with things we don't believe. It is exhausting work.

But one of the greatest blessings of getting older is that you simply stop caring about the audience. There is a holy "I don't care" that settles over the soul in the second half of life. You realize that you don't have the energy to pretend anymore. You realize that "people pleasing" is a prison.

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This is the death of the Imposter. As you age, you become comfortable in your own skin. You accept your quirks. You accept your limitations. You stop apologizing for who you are.

This is spiritually liberating because God can only bless the **real** you. He cannot bless who you pretend to be (because that person doesn't exist). As the mask falls away with age, you finally encounter God face-to-face. You trade the anxiety of performance for the peace of authenticity.

Number 2: The Shift from Resume to Eulogy — Clarity of Value

In his book **The Road to Character**, David Brooks distinguishes between "Resume Virtues" and "Eulogy Virtues."

* Resume Virtues are the things you bring to the marketplace: your skills, your degrees, your hustle, your sales numbers. This is the focus of the first half of life.

* Eulogy Virtues are the things they talk about at your funeral: were you kind? Did you love well? Were you faithful? Did you have integrity?

The blessing of aging is that the "Resume Virtues" start to matter less. You realize that no one is going to stand at your grave and read your LinkedIn profile. No one cares about your quarterly earnings in 1995.

Age forces a shift in value. You start to care about Legacy. You start to care about relationships. You start to care about the soul.

This shift clears the clutter. In your 20s and 30s, you are distracted by ambition. In your 50s, 60s, and beyond, you become focused on Significance. You stop asking, "How can I get ahead?" and start asking, "Who can I help?" This transition from "Success" to "Significance" is the sweet fruit of maturity.

Number 3: The Accumulation of "Ebenezers" — A Track Record of Trust

In 1 Samuel 7, the prophet Samuel sets up a stone and calls it "Ebenezer" ("Stone of Help"), saying, **"Thus far the Lord has helped us."**

When you are young, your faith is often theoretical. You believe God **can** provide, but you haven't seen Him do it many times. Your faith is fragile because it hasn't been tested.

But when you are older, you have a collection of Ebenezers.

* You remember the time you lost your job in 1998 and God provided a better one.

* You remember the diagnosis in 2005 and how God healed you.

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* You remember the wayward child in 2012 and how God brought them home.

You have a History with God.

This is why older saints are often the calmest people in the room during a crisis. The young people are panicking because this is their first storm. The older believers are calm because this is their tenth storm, and they know the Captain of the boat.

Aging gives you the undeniable data of God's faithfulness. You trust Him more because you know Him better. Your faith is no longer a theory; it is a testimony.

Number 4: The Softening of the Heart — From Judge to Father

There is a rigidity to youth. Young believers are often the most judgmental. They see the world in black and white. They are quick to condemn, quick to argue theology, and quick to write people off. They are like the "Older Brother" in the Prodigal Son story—obsessed with the rules.

But time has a way of softening the edges. As you age, you make your own mistakes. You suffer your own failures. You realize how much grace **you** have needed.

This creates Compassion.

You stop judging the divorcee because you know how hard marriage is.

You stop judging the addict because you know the pain of your own coping mechanisms.

You become less like the Older Brother and more like the Father.

The Father didn't lecture the prodigal; He ran to him. He kissed him. He clothed him.

One of the greatest signs of spiritual maturity is that you become harder to offend and easier to please. You become a safe place for sinners. You trade your gavel for a towel, and you start washing feet instead of pointing fingers.

Number 5: The Invisibility Superpower — Freedom from the Gaze

This is a paradoxical blessing. In our culture, older people often feel "invisible." You walk into a room and heads don't turn anymore. Marketing companies stop targeting you. Pop culture moves on without you.

At first, this hurts the ego. But if you embrace it, it becomes a superpower.

Being invisible to the world means you are free from the Idolatry of the Gaze.

You are no longer a slave to vanity. You are no longer competing in the beauty pageant or the popularity contest.

When the world ignores you, you are free to focus entirely on God.

Anna, the prophetess in Luke 2, was 84 years old. The world probably ignored her. But because

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she was free from the distractions of society, she spent her days and nights in the temple, fasting and praying. She was the first to recognize the Messiah when He came.

While the world was looking at the "influencers" of the day (the Pharisees and Kings), the invisible old woman saw the King of Kings.

Embrace your invisibility. It is the cloaking device of the intercessor. It allows you to do the deep work of the Kingdom without the distraction of the applause.

Number 6: The Long View of Suffering — "This Too Shall Pass"

When a toddler drops their ice cream cone, they scream. Why? Because in their short life, that is the worst thing that has ever happened to them. They have no perspective.

When a young adult goes through a breakup or a job loss, it feels like the end of the world.

But age brings Perspective.

You have lived long enough to know that "Good Friday" is not the end of the story; "Easter Sunday" is coming.

You have lived long enough to know that seasons change. Winter does not last forever.

This allows you to possess emotional stability. You don't ride the roller coaster of highs and lows anymore.

Psalm 37:25 says, *"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread."*

David could only say that because he was old. He had the data.

This perspective allows you to be an anchor for your family. When everyone else is freaking out, you can sit back, smile, and say, "God is still on the throne. We will get through this. I've seen worse, and God delivered us then, too."

Number 7: Proximity to the Finish Line — The Thinning of the Veil

Finally, the greatest blessing of getting older is that you are closer to the Wedding Feast.

The Apostle Paul said, *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:21).

When we are young, we are terrified of death. We cling to this life because it's the only one we know. We are building our kingdom here.

But as you age, the "tent" of this body starts to wear out (2 Corinthians 5:1). The stakes get pulled up. The canvas gets thin.

This is not a design flaw; it is an eviction notice. God makes this world uncomfortable eventually so that we don't get too attached to it. He makes the body ache so that the soul begins to long for its

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new home.

As you get older, more of your friends and family are on the other side than on this side. Your treasure has transferred to Heaven. The veil between you and Jesus gets thinner.

You start to have a "homesickness" for Heaven.

This is a blessing. It takes the sting out of death. You realize that you are not marching toward a cliff; you are marching toward a coronation. You are not running out of time; you are running into Eternity.

Conclusion

So, to every gray-haired saint reading this: Do not despise your crown.

Do not let the culture lie to you and tell you that you are "past your prime." In the Kingdom of God, the vintage wine is the most expensive.

* Your prayers are more powerful now.

* Your wisdom is deeper now.

* Your love is purer now.

Caleb was 85 years old when he looked at the mountain and said, *"Give me this mountain!"* (Joshua 14:12). He did his greatest fighting in his old age.

Moses was 80 when he started his ministry.

John wrote the Book of Revelation when he was an old man in exile.

Your assignment is not over. In fact, you have spent your whole life preparing for **this** season.

Stand tall. Wear your silver crown with dignity.

The outer man is perishing, but the inner man is being renewed day by day. You are just getting started.

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree... they will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green." (Psalm 92:12-14)