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**Theme:** God's Cedars of Lebanon

**Scripture:** Psalm 92:12-14 *"The Godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted into the Lord's own house. They flourish in the courts of God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit, they will remain vital and green."*

**A Thought:** Monthly my wife and I meet with two other couples for dinner and a rousing game of dominos. Our septuagenarian friends were there that special Sunday when I received the Lord. We have had a special relationship for many years. Today, we attend different churches but maintain a friendship beyond the monthly gathering. At one of our get-togethers with the dominos spread out on the table our conversation led to the aches and pains we were all experiencing e.g., knee surgery, ankle injury, sleepless nights and the constant purple bruises that never disappear (like they use to). As Christians getting older and not necessarily old in mind or spirit is part of God's plan. Paul elaborates this thought in second Corinthians 4:16 (ESV) *"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self, is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."* As believers we know in our hearts and minds that He is in total control and that we live according to His will. What tremendous freedom, albeit the physical hardships of aging and pain we experience when there is a loss of a family member or friend. Remember His promises. One of them is to take care of you and me... Isaiah 46:4 *"I will be your God throughout life time - until your hair is white with age. I made you and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you."*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- How sensitive are you to the elderly? Your parents, grandparents, relatives and neighbors?
- What is your patience level when dealing with senior citizens?
- Are you willing to assist a senior e.g., shopping, household maintenance, transportation and even a lunch date to name a few?

**Scriptures to read:**

- Leviticus 19:32; Proverbs 2:1-2; 16:31, 17:6, 20:29; Psalm 71:17-18; Isaiah 46:4;
- Job 12:12; Psalm 92:12-14; Luke 2:37; Romans 12:12; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:20;

**Quote:** WWII General Douglas MacArthur (Preachersfiles.com - Mike Riley)  
*“Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest in life and living wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair - these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.”*

**Bottom Line:** You know the years are passing by when you see one of the stars of the popular 70s television show “Happy Days” the Fonze played by actor Henry Winkler sporting a crown of gray hair pitching a reverse mortgage commercial to senior citizens. Wow! Fonze and gray hair. C’est la vie - such is life. Nah. I don’t think so! In the midst of the aging process that includes suffering and loss as mentioned earlier our Lord sustains us for the next day and the next knowing all the while what awaits is our glorious future with Him. Job (Job 14:1-2, 10) didn’t tell the complete story with these words - *“Man dies and is laid low; he breathes his last and is no more.”* World evangelist Billy Graham talks about this uncertain world in his book The Journey . He says “Life is hard - but God is good, and Heaven is real.” Add this to the good news for us mortals... *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away.”* Revelation 21:4 (NIV). Gents, the purpose of this essay is to draw attention to the aging process and to lift up our parents, grandparents, the elderly and to encourage a special relationship with them.

**NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, RayPlease

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