

Finishing Well

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I. Introduction.

II. Those rightly related to God will always bear fruit regardless of age.

A. We have to ask ourselves these questions.

B. The speaker is a deacon, a teacher, a mentor, and a speaker.

C. Two mistakes that Christians make.

1. They think God can't get along without them.

2. They think that God can get along without them.

D. There are only two kinds of people—those that are young enough to stay on for a long time and those that are too old not to. The latter do the classifying.

III. Talking more than listening may be a sign of diminishing energy because it takes more energy to listen.

IV. To stop growing spiritually is to start dying.

A. When you reach age 33 you go downhill physically and therefore, many think that Christ chose that age to be crucified. Most in heavy-weight boxing fight their last fight at this age. The mind usually goes as well.

B. But the Christian should be the exception. He should continue growing in grace and knowledge of God. (2 Peter 3:8)

C. Death is the “cessation of growth.”

V. We may change battlefields, but there is no furlough or discharge in your spiritual journey. (Ecclesiastes 8:8)

VI. The richest and most enjoyable and most fruitful decade of our lives may and can be the seventies.

A. Peter started out as a learner, then became a leader and moved on to be a statesman and then finally an author.

B. Each stage of Peter's life was more fulfilling.

C. A typical man is more concerned with wear they are going than what they are doing at a young age. In the age group from 35-40 a typical man becomes interested in producing. After this a man is convicted to pass on what he has learned. The golden age is 50-65 where he becomes a coach.

D. Great men prayed that their seventies would be the greatest time of their lives.

VII. The major change after limited assignment is how the working day is spent.

A. What does not change.

1. Our ability to be in the will of God does not change.
2. Our ability to use our gifts does not change.
3. Our relationships with our family do not change.
4. Our relationships with Christian fellowship do not change.
5. Our time in prayer does not change.
6. Our correspondence and business matters do not change.
7. The second law of thermodynamics does not change. Everything is wearing out and running down in contrast to what evolution teaches.

B. What does change.

1. Time and energy are not regulated the same.
2. Our financial position changes.
3. More time for leisure.
4. More time for family.
5. More health problems.
6. More time for creativity.
 - a. As long as one produces creatively he has a sense of purpose.
 - b. Most retired military officers do not live five years after retirement. Numbers are staggering for CEOs as well.
 - c. We need to have projects to feel purposeful in our lives.
7. The choice of how we spend the working day.

VIII. The greatest challenge among seniors is the psychological and emotional adjustment of a transitional relationship to the ministry family.

A. It is not easy to know how to be involved in retirement. The psychological isolation is difficult to deal with.

B. Your position must be based upon your psychological needs and it must be addressed.

1. The British House of Lords have it in their interest to protect the people—there is a checkpoint.
2. For current administrations, they should consult senior staff to meet their psychological needs and to maintain checkpoints.
3. The main concern is for the seniors is the purity of the ministry.
4. If the Navigators never fade or die, they will be the exception among ministries.

IX. The Navigator ministry is doing an excellent job at preparing people for the transition.

Application questions.

1. Summarize the main points of the speaker concerning the transition to retirement. How do these model “finishing well?”

2. What does the speaker emphasize that the greatest risk is in making that transition? How is the person to deal with it? How can your ministry react?

3. What is your greatest fear about living in old age? What principles will you apply to assuage this fear? How has this message affected your view of retirement?
