

Age Can Have A Discouragement Effect

All aspects of discouragement are used by Satan as a tool to destroy our faith.

We feel when we grow old that we cannot be used by God as part of the work He is doing on earth in this generation. The result is a deep feeling of discouragement.

To help us dispel this negative attitude, God has recorded the lives of certain people who continued to serve God at a great age.

Genesis 5:23-24 [New King James] *“So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”*

Enoch continued to be a servant of God, even at a great age.

Jude 14-15 [New King James] *“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’”*

Enoch was a prophet of God as a result of his great faith in God.

Hebrews 11:5 [New King James] *“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”*

We cannot think of Enoch without thinking of an attitude towards death that is the result of great faith, that pleased God, [verse 6].

In itself this statement does not say how Enoch died, except it was in God’s time, not that of people who were hostile to what he prophesied, as the similar example of Elijah, [2 Kings 2:11-18].

Genesis 5:21-22 [New King James] *“Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.”*

Enoch was not called by God until the age of 65 years!

Joshua 14:7, 10 [New King James] *“I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.” ... “And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.”*

Caleb at the age of 85 still being used by God.

The example of Zacharias and Elizabeth, [Luke 1:5-7, 11-25, 36-37] always remember verse 37.

Hebrews 12:5-11 [New King James] *“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.’ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be*

partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

God expects the older parents to correct the young people when they go astray, [**Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:6, 15**].

As a result of this good example and correction, grandchildren can be a great blessing to old people, [Proverbs 17:6].

Psalms 92:12-15 [New King James] *"The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."*

All whose lives are right with God will continue to "bear fruit in old age."

1 Chronicles 29:28 [New King James] *"So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honour; and Solomon his son reigned in his place."*

King David, who was 71 years old and a man who was a man after God's own heart, [**Acts 13:22**] continued to serve God as king over Israel right up to his death.

Isaiah 46:3-4 [New King James] *"Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been upheld by Me from birth, who have been carried from the womb: even to your old age, I am He, and even to grey hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."*

All who are God's people will be supported by Him in their old age.

Hebrews 13:5-6 [New King James] *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'"*

A promise from our Saviour and Almighty God that He will never leave us if we are content with the blessings that He has given us throughout our lives, however long He allows us to live in this physical body.