

## HOW TO LIVE A GLORIOUS LIFE AS WE AGE!

-How many of you have fond memories of your youth? (...)

-What makes you smile when you think of the “good old days”? (...)

-What are the benefits of growing old? (Senior citizen discounts, retirement, knowledge, not worrying about what others think, etc.)

-What are the struggles with growing old? (physical ailments, seeing the loss of loved ones, leaving your home, needing care, etc.)

-Even with the struggles of growing old, scripture talks about aging and how it is a gift and has its purpose.

-Can anyone share how it can be a gift and have a purpose? (...)

-Well, today I thought it would be encouraging to see the purpose God has for us who are aging. By the way, we ALL are aging! There is something special He has for us in this aging process. It allows us to bring *glory* to His name!

-First, we need to begin our study with trying to understand what the “glory of God” means. Once we do this, we then will be able to understand our purpose.

-Can anyone explain what the “glory of God” is? (...)

-The best answer I could find was written by a famous pastor whose name is John Piper. He said: “The ‘Glory of God’ is the infinite beauty and greatness of God’s manifold (or many) perfections.” Let me say it this way, the ‘Glory of God’ is in the infinite beauty and greatness of His *perfect character*, His *perfect love*, His *perfect mercy*, His *perfect strength* and His *perfect Holiness*. And in order to reveal all of these in “His glory” to mankind, God sent His son, Jesus, into the world to show us these perfections. Jesus had God’s *perfect character*, His *perfect love*, His *perfect strength* and His *perfect mercy* while here on earth.

-Can you share some ways that Jesus showed God’s glory here on earth through His perfect love, strength and mercy to others? (By the way He served people and gave His Father in Heaven the credit, how He healed people, how He loved people, how He encouraged people, how He taught people, being obedient to God to the end at the cross, *all the while giving God the glory and praise*, etc.)

-These are ways that Jesus showed God’s glory here on earth.

-But, here is where our purpose comes in as well. Let’s read our first verse on our verse sheet together written by Paul the apostle, #1: (I Corinthians 10:31 “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all *for the glory of God*.”)

-How can we give God glory in eating, drinking or just living life each day wherever we are? (By having the right attitude of thankfulness to Him for providing it all and by honoring Him by the way we live our lives day by day.)

-Paul tells us that this is our *purpose in life*, that whatever we do, do it all for the “Glory of God”. All of our actions should give Him glory and praise. Every

decision we make, every attitude we have and every action we take should give Him the glory.

**-Giving God the glory helps others see His magnificence and not our good deeds.**

**-And hopefully when they see His magnificence, they will see Jesus' love for them and in time give their hearts to Him. This brings ultimate glory to God!**

**-I wanted us to look at some aged people in the bible to help us see how they brought glory to God through representing Christ's character.**

**-Hopefully we can follow their encouraging examples.**

**-Let's first look at Moses. Moses led the Israelites for 80 years but now he was nearing the end of his life at 120. But, God was not finished with him yet. God gave him a command to help Joshua, the next leader of the Israelites, out. For Joshua was going to lead the next generation of Israelites into the Promised Land.**

**-Let's read verse #2 that shares what God told Moses to do: (Deuteronomy 1:38 "But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it, *Encourage him*, because he will lead Israel to inherit it.")**

**-What did God call 120 year-old Moses to do now? (Encourage Joshua.)**

**-And why? (Because he was to lead Israel into the Promise Land.)**

**-Just as God called Moses to encourage Joshua because he was to be lead, the Apostle Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 5:11 to also encourage and build others up, for we know not what God has planned for them. Paul simply writes "Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up..."**

**-Who would be the "*one another(s)*" in our lives today? (Friends, family, workers around us, those who minister to us or help us, those who we don't even know but cross our paths each day, etc.)**

**-What are some specific ways we can encourage them: (We can offer to pray for them, tell them thank-you, let them know they are doing a good job, tell them we are proud of them, etc.)**

**-We never know what our encouragement may mean to someone. Because of Moses' encouragement and God's help, Joshua led Israel to inherit the Promised Land.**

**-Our encouragement to others may bless them to overcome something, or encourage them to have the strength to lead in an area they were struggling in, or maybe to even lead in an area God has called them to and they just needed someone to lift them up.**

**-Or most important, we may even encourage someone who does not know the Lord as their Savior to find out more about Him because of the way we live our own lives and our own words of encouragement to them.**

**-So, encouraging others brings Glory to God!**

**-Let's look at another precious elderly saint in the scriptures to see how we can glorify God as we age. Her name was Anna, and she was a prophetess who lived during the time of Jesus' birth. She became a widow at a young age and lived in the temple after she became a widow for the rest of her life. When we meet her, she is**

**around 84 years old and is at the temple when Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus to present Him to the Lord just as the Law of Lord required at that time.**

**-Let's see what the scripture says about her. #3 on our Verse Sheet:** (Luke 2:36-38  
“There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and *praying*. Coming up to them (Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus) at that very moment, she *gave thanks to God and spoke about the child* to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.”)

**-What did this elderly saint, Anna, do for Joseph and Mary?** (She lifted up a prayer of thanks to God for this child, Jesus, and spoke about Him. Offering an encouraging word to the parents and all those around.)

**-Have you ever felt that younger parents may need your encouraging words and prayers for them and their children? (...)**

**-Are you willing to do it for someone you know whether they ask for it or not? (...)**

**-Would you have appreciated it when you were younger, having an older person praying for you and your family? (...)**

**-Is there anyone that you can think of that you can do this for? (...)**

**-It could also be someone in your own family, a friend's family or even a worker that you may not know well but may need your prayers.**

**-How about praying for our pastors or the janitors that clean up after us, and their families as well? I'm sure they could use it.**

**-The most powerful thing we can do for others is to pray for them and offer them an encouraging word as Anna did.**

**-Praying for others brings Glory to God!**

**-Let's look at another uplifting testimony of an aging saint in the Bible that we can learn from.**

**-Does anyone remember the story of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus?**

**-First off, can anyone tell me a little of Elizabeth and her husband's, Zechariah, story?**

(-Elizabeth was the wife of Zechariah, a priest in Israel in the time of Jesus' birth.

-Elizabeth and Zechariah were both aged and childless.

-The Angel of the Lord appeared to Elizabeth, telling her she will conceive and bear a son and call him John, and he will prepare the way of the Lord.) (Luke 1)

**-When Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant, that was when the Angel of the Lord appeared to Mary, the young virgin betrothed to Joseph, and told her she was to conceive and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God.**

**-Does anyone know what the Jewish leaders did to women who became pregnant out of wedlock back then? (They usually stoned them to death.)**

**-So, I want us to read the following verses to see what Mary did after the Angel of the Lord gave her the news and notice whom she went to with this news.**

**-Let's read #4 on our Verse Sheet together:** (Luke 1:38-41 “‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May your word to me be fulfilled.’ Then the angel left her. *At that time Mary got ready and hurried* to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you bear!’”)

**-Mary knew that in her culture she was about to face some very difficult circumstances because she was pregnant and out of wedlock. According to these verses what did Mary do first?** (She got ready and hurried to see Elizabeth.)

**-Why do you think she hurried to see Elizabeth?** (She ran to the one she trusted to share the good news with but also one who could encourage her with what she was about to face. She ran to a godly woman who was blessed with the wisdom of age and the presence of the Holy Spirit. She ran to a trustworthy and wise Elizabeth.)

**-Can you be that for someone, trustworthy and wise from the Holy Spirit’s leading in your own life? (...)**

**-What did the aged saint Elizabeth do for Mary when she came in?** (She blessed her.)

**-Can you think of some people in your life that may benefit from your blessings?** (...)

**-It could be as simple as a word of blessing to a child, grandchild, friend, worker or even someone who is serving you, no matter your circumstance or theirs.**

**-Too many times we may want to offer “wise advice” to help fix a situation for them, since we have gleaned a lot of wisdom by living a long life with Christ.**

**-Have you ever been tempted to do that? (...)**

**-But, just like Mary, they may not need that at this time. Instead, they need what the Holy Spirit lays on your heart to say to them what He wants you to say at the moment you receive them.**

**-The Holy Spirit knew Mary needed blessing!**

**-Elizabeth was sensitive enough in her older years to be aware of the Holy Spirit’s leading and then moved as the Spirit used her to bless Mary.**

**-If we are willing to be led by the Holy Spirit as Elizabeth was, we can be beacons of Hope and Blessing in a person’s life.**

**-So, being God’s Beacon of Hope and Blessing to others brings Glory to God!**

**-One of the greatest things we can learn from these saints from scripture that we have studied today is that they made themselves available to God to be used by Him.**

**-They walked closely with God and because of their relationship with Him, they were able to be sensitive to God’s voice and the Holy Spirit’s leading in their lives.**

**-Elizabeth, Anna and Moses made themselves available to God so He could use them to bless others, to pray for them and to encourage them.**

**-Someone has said that “availability” is our best gift to God.**

**-We need to ask ourselves this question, are we willing to be available to God everyday? (...)**

**-Are we willing to put aside whatever we are doing or our feelings and let God's Holy Spirit reveal to us how we can bless someone else who may cross our path today? (...)**

**-Are we ready to receive the blessing in return of God's presence as we walk with Him daily in this area? (...)**

**-We are blessed when our own lives in Christ become a blessing to others who cross our paths daily as we radiate Jesus above all else, through our words, actions and deeds.**

**-Letting our actions shine for the Lord, and also thanking Him that we are alive and able to serve in whatever available capacity He calls us to, all this glorifies Him.**

**-If we are alive, breathing, in fairly good health, we can praise the Lord and bring glory to His name wherever we are at if we choose to listen to Him and bless others.**

**-So, let's read the three ways we learned today that we can bring Glory to God. It is on the bottom of our Verse Sheet:**

1. Encouraging others brings Glory To God!
2. Praying for others brings Glory To God!
3. Being God's beacon of Hope and Blessing to others brings Glory To God!

**I want to leave you with this beautiful message from Colossians 3:16 "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you *teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through Psalms, Hymns and Songs From The Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts!*"**

## “HOW TO LIVE A GLORIOUS LIFE AS WE AGE”

### VERSE SHEET

1. I Corinthians 10:31 “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all *for the glory of God.*”
2. Deuteronomy 1:38 “But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. *Encourage him*, because he will lead Israel to inherit it.”
3. Luke 2:36-38 “There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting *and praying*. Coming up to them (Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus) at that very moment, she *gave thanks to God and spoke about the child* to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.”
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### Three Ways to Bring Glory To God:

1. *Encouraging* others brings Glory To God!
2. *Praying* for others brings Glory To God!
3. Being God’s *beacon of Hope and Blessing* to others brings Glory To God!