

The Best Is Yet To Come

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Everyone knows that God never intended for people to live forever here on this earth. Instead, he has prepared a much better place for his children. In heaven, God will *"wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain"* (Revelation 21:4).

It is sad that as some of God's most faithful children reach the end of their lives, they suddenly want to cling to power and position here on this earth. Instead of willingly passing the leadership of their church on to the next generation, they become defensive and insist on doing things as they have always been done.

In the process, they drive away the younger people who are essential for the survival of their church. Their sacrificial giving results in great empty cathedrals instead of vibrant, growing congregations.

It doesn't have to be that way. Older Christians can instead be the force that launches the Church into the next generation. Such mature people do not see change as a rejection of their values. Instead they constantly change and adapt their methods and programs so that they can pass on their beliefs to an ever-changing world.

My Grandfather was very active in his mature years – preaching and traveling until he was in his late eighties. He never really grew old. He always wanted to learn new methods of reaching people for Christ. He despised hearing people talk about the "good old days". "These are the best days," he used to say. "Who wants to go back to what we used to have?"

Grandpa still had lots of plans and ideas even when he reached ninety years of age. When his body began to wear out, he began to fret that he wouldn't get everything accomplished that he dreamed of doing. However, Grandpa stopped fretting one day when he seemed to hear God tell him, "There will still be lots to do even after you leave this earth."

The world will go on turning after we are gone. The churches will still be opened; the Bible will still be taught. Someone else will lead the choir and another person will sit on the board.

As we grow older, we have a choice. We can refuse to invest in younger people, cling to our own positions and methods, and eventually kill the churches we have invested in all our lives. Or we can trust the younger generation, embrace relevant methods of communicating the Word of God, and become the foundation of vibrant churches of the next millennium.

Change is unavoidable. The young at heart are excited to see it come and even help to make it happen. Those who cling to the past grow old because the rest of the world passes them by.

The Church today desperately needs the wisdom, encouragement and financial support of older Christians. Not older Christians who want to recreate the glory years of long ago, but visionaries who are quick to say, "The best is yet to come!"