

What Can Old Folks Do In Church

By Evangelist Hal Webb

On August 5, 2008 I will reach my 82nd birthday and continue my 65th. year of Evangelism. Only the dear Lord Jesus has made this possible, as He is the one who is in charge of a believers life. Our God is always in control. What then is the responsibility of the older saints in every church? Since I am one, I want to write about older folks and their lives and the responsibilities of their final years on earth. To many, older folks seem to be just taking up space, talking of their pains and just waiting to die. We must not be a statistic but a participating member of our church. It seems to me there are at least seven things we can still do.

First, we must **Show Stability**: "*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong,*" I Cor. 18:13. Many jokes are told of the pillars of the church and weak pillars can let the church down. Our lives must be known for stability with known values and the strength of faithful years. Older ones must not deviate from the truth, and be careful to maintain a positive faith. Be known for strong example and dependable attendance at each church service. Younger members may falter and fail but we should know better. In a loving, Godly way, stick to the Bible and refuse the new foolish fables of man. In each new generation, men change; often it is not for the better. The older generation must steer the church in the true paths of righteousness. Our proven faith must be the backbone of the church, which will be constantly under fire to change and retreat. Older, proven lives, can point the way that is right and pleasing to the Lord.

Secondly, we must **Be An Example**: We are told to "*Be an example of the believers, in word, conversation, charity, spirit, faith, and purity,*" I Timothy 4:12. A visible, Christ

honoring testimony is still a vital part of our final years. Our actions and our appearance, even as older citizens, is critical to those younger than ourselves. In appearance and dress we must not lose the difference between a manly man and a Godly woman. This age has nearly destroyed this difference which in Gods eyes made a woman a thing of beauty and a man a person of strength. We must establish and maintain those things that are proven right and shun the things that are wrong. By our total life we should be saying, "follow me" I have been tested and proven and know the way that is best and which most honors God." Our words and our love in every action is known as leadership. Don't hesitate to point the way of victory to others in the race.

Third, we must **Major In Encouragement**: "*A word spoken in due season, how good it is,*" Proverbs 15:23. Look beyond your current aches and pains. Your vocabulary has grown through many years but do not always talk about yourself. Our last years are filled with many problems but don't recite them constantly to others. When folks ask how you feel try not to respond with an "organ" recital. Take time to encourage the pastor and his staff. Be mindful it takes many to cover the needs your church presents. They are commanded to do their best as unto the Lord. Older members should concentrate on encouraging others and beware fault finding comments. Seek out the choir director and singers and mention numbers that blessed your heart. Pick out some young people and encourage them as they seek to grow and mature for God. And again, take time to counter act the criticism your pastor hears day by day. Don't become a pain in the neck but a breath of appreciation to your friends in church.

Fourth, continue to **Faithfully Support**: "*Lay by as God has prospered,*" I Corinthians 16:2. Long ago we older folks should have learned all we have and are comes from the hand of the Lord. His mercies are new every day and a

tenth of all our earnings belongs in the plate as an offering of love and obedience. Our retirement check may be smaller but we must not rob God of His part. One cannot teach others to give without giving of yourself. Our family needs to know grandpa and grandma are faithful supporters for life. Keep giving your church faithful support and stand by the missionary giving. Perhaps one on one when you see someone in genuine need. A Godly Christian will be a giving Christian.

Fifth, we must **Faithfully Witness:** *"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed; shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him,"* Psm. 126:6. Visiting and counseling are two great ways to assist your church and lift some of the load of your pastor. Ask him to sit down with you and assign some that have a need. Make it your responsibility to help them and share in their problems and growth. Many Sunday School kids have little encouragement at home. They could use some extra grandparents who notice them with a hug of encouragement and words of wisdom. Look for needy teens and climb into their pocket with interest and suggestions from a heart that cares. Remember the soul winners crown is a glorious crown given to those who win many souls. Carry Gospel tracts and use them every day as a means of getting out the Gospel. With tender care, take time to reach out to the lost souls of others. Your aches and pains will seem less as you pursue souls that are in distress. Witnessing is something every one of us can do faithfully, if we choose..

Sixth, Be sure to:**Offer Service:** *"Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,"* I Cor. 15:58. A servants heart is something we all need to work on as the years pile up. It is a tragedy to slump into only Sunday morning attendance as so many older people do. Being faithful to church is not an option but a command. Never let Sunday night TV rob you of Sunday night worship at

your church. And what about prayer meeting? What kind of message are we giving others when we miss such mid-week blessing. It is amazing how aches and pains can be forgotten surrounded by the prayers of the saints. Be present in all the services of your church. Come on dear one, do something and ask to help; be known as a doer and not a pew occupier. Sure we older folks have to slow down but again, "do something." Be known as a doer of the work.

Lastly, **Be Strong In Prayer:** *"Pray without ceasing,"* I Thess 5:17. Our old voices may crack and our lungs not push, singing with power as when younger. You may feel you cannot teach, keep records or be janitor, but you still can pray. At our church between Sunday School and church a number of our older men gather in the furnace room. In that place of heat and power among the whir of fans we pray for the power of God in the morning service. When folks respond to the invitation we rejoice that our prayers were heard. Oh dear ones, pray for our straying country and the dear Christian President so malinged and hated by the evil Godless world. Pray for our troops and the millions of the world that have never known peace. Make a prayer list, record names and be a part of the good ministry to which you belong. Cry to God for His power on your pastor. Satan hates men of God and is doing all to hinder them today. As servants of the Prince of Peace fill the Heavenly switchboard with hours of petitions each week. Even from a sickbed, a wheelchair or wherever, there is no place your prayer cannot be heard. Dear elderly sisters and brothers, look beyond the pain and limitations of our final earthly days. Fill the air with prayer for the needs of all God's children and hold the blood stained banner high. Remember our Saviour, the King of Kings is coming soon. Be known for the life you have shown and the relationships you have known. Amen!