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# Temptations of the Elderly

Arvin Martin



## Scripture Reading: Psalm 90

In one sense, being in the mid-sixties is not elderly at all. In another sense, sixty-plus years is enough time for a lot of events to take place that the younger set never even heard about, especially those in their thirties or younger. My grandfather seemed quite old when I was eight or ten, but now I know he was only in his fifties.

Time moves slowly when we are young; we think “old” is so far away. We mistakenly believe it will be a long time before we are elderly. Big surprise, some morning we wake up and wonder, *How did this happen? Where did all the years go so suddenly?* They went one day at a time, so slowly that we barely noticed it happening.

The good news is that *elderly* is at least ten years further down the road than our present age. But as we age, the realization hits that we are closer to our end than we are to our birth. The end of our journey becomes more real. What once was a hazy concept slowly begins solidifying into a stark reality.

## *Senior Moments With God*

Satan also realizes your end is coming closer and the thought of Heaven is becoming dearer to you. He is aware that his time to get you to fall is becoming shorter. Therefore, he has a special set of temptations in his repertoire to try out on you as you age and the ravages of time start to take toll on your body and mind.

I can already discern some of the temptations that might become more pronounced as the years pass.

- ❧ The temptation to relax physically and spiritually.
- ❧ The temptation to worry about the future.
- ❧ The temptation to recount life's failures and regrets.
- ❧ The temptation of irrelevance.
- ❧ The temptation of blame and bitterness.
- ❧ The temptation of discouragement.

On a more positive note, God says that He will not allow a temptation that is greater than we can bear. God has been good, and He has never failed anyone. He has always kept His promises, and we can expect that He will continue to do so until the end of our days. "Many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:11-13).

The secret is to keep an open and honest relationship with Jesus. Keep a warm heart toward God. Read His Word and claim the promises.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Luke 12:6, 7).

# The Temptation to Relax Spiritually

Arvin Martin



**Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:11-13; Philippians 3:13, 14**

Philippians was likely one of the last epistles Paul wrote. Though he was nearing the end of his life, we have no hint that he was in the mood to give up. The finish line was near. The prize was getting closer.

If we have been involved in church all of our lives, from accepting Christ as a youth and faithfully serving in different capacities over the years, we may be tempted to just relax. Since we are “over the hill” anyway (or so we are told), maybe we can throw it in neutral and drift the rest of the way home.

Spiritually, this is not a winning strategy. We don’t know what hills stand between us and victory; we don’t know how much spiritual stamina it will take to face the closing days of our lives.

We dare not give up. God expects and desires that we keep an up-to-date relationship with Him, one that gives us the power to keep pressing toward the mark as long as we have the strength and mental capacity to do so.



## *Senior Moments With God*

Satan tells us, “You have been in the thick of the battle; you have scars to prove your days of diligence; just relax and glory in the skirmishes of long ago. You’ve paid your dues.”

Satan desires to have every one of us, and he would be pleased to be able to get us to let our guard down and be overtaken near the end of the day. He wants us to take our armor off and not have our sword and shield and helmet near at hand.

Wearing the Christian armor has no time or age limit. As long as the devil is near with his wiles and there is darkness and wickedness in high places, we are in an evil day and must continue to be diligent in our Christian lives.

In earthly warfare, the ones who teach are the ones who have been through the battle and have learned from experience. As older, seasoned, or even “retired” warriors, be ready to tell stories and give encouragement and instruction on the wiles of the devil and how God has helped you to be victorious, or even what you learned from battles you lost. Give instruction on spotting the deceit and tactics of the enemy and how to counteract them, when to stand and fight, and when to run.

No man or woman is going to get to Heaven by accident. Nonchalance will not get you there. Hoping will not get you there. It is by taking Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and then living a life of deliberate consecration until death.

# The Temptation to Recount Failures

Arvin Martin



## Scripture Reading: Psalm 25:1-7

God has given us a memory to be used for His honor and glory. Sometimes Satan takes over our memories and uses them against us. Without question, there are events in each of our lives where we did not do the right thing and of which we are ashamed. The rationale that drove a decision that was not honorable, the way we talked to others, the way we acted or reacted that caused others to sin or fall, the harsh words or harsh actions that were not of a godly sort—we have done them all.

We reminisce about how situations turned out, about how things might have been different if we had only made a different decision or spoke a little more kindly or been a bit more understanding.

I think most of us do have regrets about things we said or did that may have caused someone to be discouraged and lose out. We remember situations we did not handle properly or that might have been made better if we had done our part.

Satan wants us to remember all the embarrassing and perhaps sinful details and overwhelm us to the point of getting bogged down