



women
devoted to God
Lesson 12

Fear of the Future

Panel

*And the Lord will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.*
Isaiah 58:11

Introduction

Aging alone

Health Issues

Loneliness

Fear

Matthew 6:34 Do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself . . .

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Trust

Psalm 42:5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.

Psalm 91:2 I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!"

Caring for aging parents

Adult Child/Parent Relationships

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise) so that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.

Care-giving

Leviticus 19:32 You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged and you shall revere your God; I am the Lord.

I dreaded turning 39 (physical aspects of aging)

God's Perspective on Aging

Strength of Character

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Godly Wisdom

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

God Understands

Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age I will be the same, and to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you; and I will bear you and I will deliver you.

Who is that old woman in the mirror?

Cosmetics, Hairstyles, and Exercise – consider motives and focus

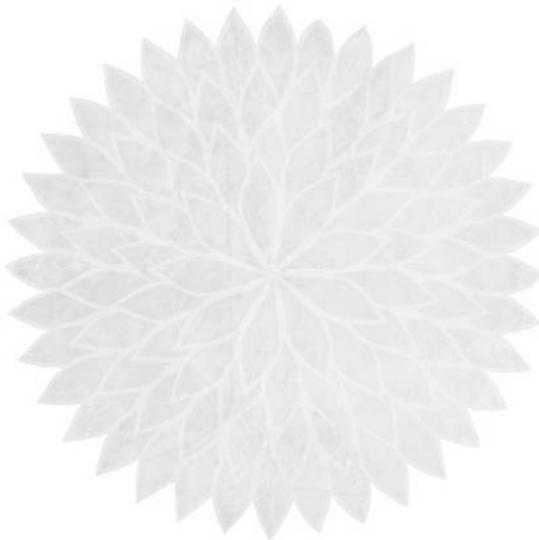
1 Peter 3: 3-4 Your adornment must not be merely external – braiding the hair and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

1 Samuel 16:7 . . . God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Work and retirement

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Matthew 6:25, 34a *For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.*



Can I still serve the Lord after retirement or when physical strength is gone?

God's Words

Proverbs 16:9 *The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.*

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Biblical Examples

- Anna
- Dorcas
- Christ

Hymns

- Work, for the Night Is Coming (Annie L. Coghill)
- To the Work (Fanny Crosby)
- So Send I You (Edith M. Clarkson)

How Can We Serve?

*Wherever He may guide me,
No want shall turn me back;
My Shepherd is beside me,
And nothing can I lack.
His wisdom ever waketh,
His sight is never dim,
He knows the way He taketh,
And I will walk with Him.*

Anna L. Waring

Abandon yourself to His care and guidance as a sheep in the care of a shepherd, and trust Him utterly. It is no matter that you may seem to yourself to be in the very midst of a desert, with nothing green about you, inwardly or outwardly. You may think you will have to make a long journey before you can get into the green pastures. But our Shepherd will turn that very place where you are into green pastures, for he has power to make the desert rejoice and blossom as a rose.

Hannah Whitall Smith