

Happy
GRAND
PARENTS'
Day!



Sweeter as the Years Go By

Today's Message (13 September 2020) / *Psalm 92:12-15*

What makes a lifetime of loyalty to God worth it? It isn't just the next life, as wonderful as heaven is. It is the life you live itself, right now. Because of the Lord Jesus, right now you have:

A purpose for living

A Friend in need

A Counselor for life

A permanent Source of peace

A Mediator who understands suffering and intervenes at the right time

A God who is on your side – always for you, and never against you.

And so much more than these, but time would fail us!

But would you like to know how God preserves believers when they reach the best stage of life on earth? Look at our passage:

WHO SHALL FLOURISH? "THE RIGHTEOUS." Therefore: *Make sure you meet God's only requirement to be counted as one of the righteous.*

- Ephesians 2:8-10: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

HOW SHALL THEY FLOURISH? "LIKE THE PALM TREE...LIKE A CEDAR." Therefore: *Welcome the cost of following Christ, as part of God's training to make you better, not bitter.*

- James 1:2-4: Count it all joy...when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- Psalms 37:25: I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.

WHERE SHALL THEY FLOURISH? "IN THE COURTS OF OUR GOD." Therefore: *Be a lifetime worshiper of God.*

- Psalms 73:26: My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- Psalms 103:17: But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children.

WHEN DO THEY FLOURISH? "THEY STILL BEAR FRUIT IN OLD AGE." Therefore: *Be a lifetime worker for God.*

- Psalms 71:18: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

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- 2 Timothy 1:5: I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois.
- Proverbs 13:22: A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

WHY WILL THEY FLOURISH? "TO DECLARE THAT THE LORD IS UPRIGHT... MY ROCK, AND THERE IS NO UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IN HIM."
Therefore: *Know and realize, that God has a purpose, a plan, a destiny for your life. Now go and fulfill it!*

- 2 Corinthians 4:16: So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
- Isaiah 40:30-31: Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

FINAL THOUGHTS

What shall it be for you? Sweeter as the years go by, or bitter as the years go by? Your life is far from over. The best part of it has just begun. As far as God is concerned, you are good to the last drop of blood, you are valuable to the last breath of your life. You are useful till God calls you home, and you're immortal on earth till God says the time has come to reap eternal joy with Him ■

*It will be worth it all,
When we see Jesus!
Life's trials will seem so small,
When we see Christ.
One glimpse of His dear face,
All sorrow will erase.
So, bravely run the race,
Till we see Christ! -Esther Kerr Rusthoi ©1941*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Besides the obvious reason of heaven, what makes a lifetime of loyalty to Jesus worth it? Give at least two reasons and explain.
2. Why is it not always good for a believer to be delivered immediately from trials?
3. Pray together and ask God to bless the grandparents and seniors you personally know with length of life and quality of life – as devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Shepherd's Voice

by D. Nemy and Corie Miguel

OUR GRANDPARENTING JOURNEY

On April 2, 2018, Felicity Corinne or Happy, our first grandchild, was born and our journey as grandparents officially began. We could not find the exact words to describe the feeling, except that it was exhilarating and a fulfillment of God's promise in Genesis 22:17: "I will surely bless you, and I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore."

Before the lockdown, we got to spend time with Happy once or at most twice a week, during her dad's day off from work when they would visit us at home or during Sunday worship service. Now we get to see her every day but only through video calls. The highlight of our calls would be when she regales us with her endless singing. It is amazing to witness her growth and how she is evolving. She is witty, she leads the prayer before meals, she can quickly learn songs, memorize verses and she is also fond of arts and crafts.

We often hear the saying that grandparents are spoilers. We have yet to find that out as Happy is only two years old. But spoiling can be a good thing as long as it does not encourage your grandchildren to behave in a negative way. We acknowledge our role or part in Happy's life. We have to be positive influencers. We need to be nurturing, role models and provide her a loving, safe and peaceful environment. We have to align our disciplining method with that of her parents so as not to confuse her. But at the same time, we need to constantly assure her of our unwavering

love, support, comfort, understanding and make her feel that we are always on her side.



"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it," says Proverbs 22:16. We are grateful that we raised our children in a nurturing, happy, God-loving and God-fearing home. Now that P. Dags is a parent himself, we can see our positive influence in his parenting style. In fact, he is doing much, much better than us.

For us, grandparenting is life changing. We are now more health conscious, more youthful, more patient, more optimistic and enthusiastic. And helping raise Happy is one of our greatest accomplishments. She will not forever remain a child. Someday, we will look back and ask "Where did those years go?"

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the pride of children is their fathers.
Proverbs 17:6 ■

THE CHURCH ONLINE

BELONGING: FINDING PEACE IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

September 16 (Wed), 6:30 p.m., on GCF Facebook Page

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 7:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

LIVestream (GCF Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

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COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0078 to 80, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📱 Greenhills Christian Fellowship