

Ephesians 2:10

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

In our youth-oriented culture, it is easy to succumb to the depressing perspective that once we become senior citizens, our greatest service for God lies behind us.

But God has a different perspective. We are His workmanship. The word “workmanship” is *poema* in the Greek –from which we get the English word “poem.” God has fashioned our lives to be a unique part of His story of redemption, and He has included *this* stage of our lives in His workmanship. God has prepared good works for us to walk in, and these good works extend to *this* stage of our lives, not just to youth, early adulthood and mid-life. So those of us who know Christ and walk with Him can look forward to the adventure of significant service for Him even as we grow older!

This is why the author of Psalm 71 (who was himself a senior citizen) praised God for the continued opportunities to tell others about Him:

¹⁴ But as for me, I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more.

¹⁵ My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and of Your salvation all day long . . .

¹⁷ O God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still declare Your wondrous deeds . . .

¹⁸ And even when I am old and gray, O God . . . I (still) declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come.



This is why the author of Psalm 92 looked forward to a fruitful life even into old age:

¹² The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³ Planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴ They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green . . .

You may be asking: “But what kind of service can I render to God in my retirement years?” If you ask God, He will surely answer your question in His own perfect timing and ways. The many exciting forms of service to which He may direct you include the following:

- He may allow you to continue serving Him in many of the same ways you have served Him up to now – even though the volume of this service may be reduced to accommodate your reduced capacity. For example, I have had the privilege of teaching God’s Word for almost 50 years – and He still allows me to do this today! He has also opened up opportunities to teach His Word through writing. Look for new ways to keep using the spiritual gifts God has given you.
- He may introduce you to new kinds of service for which you are suited *because* of your advanced age. He may give you new opportunities to reach out to other seniors. He may lead a younger adult to you for mentoring in life-skills or spiritual growth. He may give you wonderful opportunities to influence the spiritual lives of your grandchildren. The possibilities are as endless as the limitless creativity of our God!
- He may give you the opportunity to *increase* certain areas of ministry during this stage of life. You may be able to practice hospitality in wider ways. You may have the financial means to be more financially generous. You may be able to devote more time to intercessory prayer.



Concerning this kind of prayer, Ajith Fernando says: “Praying is the most powerful thing we do on Earth. . . Prayer is exciting! A person involved in biblical praying will never have a dull moment. There will be pain, but there won’t be boredom. And think how many (older) people are struggling with boredom today. Prayer is something you can do when you are physically too (weak) for other forms of ministry. When (your) physical strength is diminished, (you) simply get a promotion, so that most of (your) service is done on the higher plane of battling in prayer. . . If you are a prayer warrior, retirement will hold no terrors for you. You will be delighted at the prospect of giving more time than before to the most powerful thing you can do. Isn’t that beautiful? When you are too weak to do physically exerting service, you are freed to be a powerful warrior!”¹

Today is the day to affirm God’s promise that He still has good works for you to walk in. Thank Him for His precious gift of a meaningful life right up to the moment when He receives you into His loving presence. Thank Him that He has fashioned you for this stage of your life as much as He fashioned you for the earlier stages. Ask Him to open your eyes to see your present service assignments. Then trust Him to use you and bless others through you as you step out in faith!

¹ Ajith Fernando, *Spiritual Living in a Secular World* (Zondervan, 1993), pp. 152,153.

