# [Faith and “Senior” Life](https://public-api.wordpress.com/bar/?stat=groovemails-events&bin=wpcom_email_click&redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Ffaithencounters.impart.org%2F2024%2F03%2F22%2Ffaith-and-senior-life-2%2F&sr=0&signature=68d02121167b8947fde3ccd1c0e8d8fb&blog_id=127938330&user=d4772d34747c29138d6356de987fff13&_e=&_z=z)

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Even more, I want them to know they are still useful to His church. Their abilities may have changed, but they have much more to give. I spent more time in prayer and contemplation, then broached the subject with our pastor. He sent me to do some investigation on the needs or desire of such a ministry. There was an overwhelming sense of "yes." So Senior Life Ministries is beginning.  Many seniors feel invisible. I, myself, have experienced the feeling of invisibility. For example, my daughter-in-law accompanied me to a doctor's appointment. I was a new patient. As I was filling out the forms, the receptionist kept looking at her for my answers! It was noticeable to both of us. Her attitude made me nervous and question my own competence! The great news is no matter what our age, we are not invisible to our God, nor should we be to His family.  I admit, I can't do some things I used to do. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 reminds us: therefore, we do not lose heart, though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Compared to some seniors, not even close to my age, my outer self has not wasted away as much as it could have! But, no matter how much we easily tire, or struggle to have the strength to open jars we must not lose heart. We must not let our bodies' failures cause our soul to become discouraged. My dear ones, old and young, God has a desire and need to use you for His Kingdom's sake, no matter your age.  Wisdom is found with the elderly and understanding comes with long life. Job 12:12. Sometimes, we assume people know what we know, or people don't want to know what we know. One of the goals for our Senior Life ministry is to work cross generationally with our Next Youth program. Plans are already in the works to pray with them. To successfully cross pollinate, us seniors need to walk with God's grace and humility. We can't develop impactful relationships with a haughty, judgmental attitude. We need to make sure we've dealt with any bitterness, unforgiveness that would taint our influence. We need to put away the "grumpy" old man and lady persona and show them how to age with grace. We have things to share, but we must be careful they are God's thoughts, not our thoughts. We don't want to cause discouragement, disillusionment but hope and truth. The Jesus we want to share with them is the real Jesus, the loving powerful Savior that walks with us and talks with us. Discipling, teaching, mentoring are so needed for this next generation. Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim your p0wer to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me. Many Bible scholars believe David wrote this Psalm during a time when he was under the crisis of Absalom's rebellion. You can hear his desire, "let me proclaim your power to this new generation". Is that your desire? Begin to ask the Lord for these doors. It may start with a friendly "hello" at church. Or asking a young person about their life. My senior friends, God has a job for you to do. Just ask Him. Don't give in to the devil's lie, that you have nothing to offer; or nobody wants to hear from you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes, work in your heart and put you to work! Remember, the harvest is ripe but the laborers are few.  If you are still breathing, God can use you. As a Senior, you already know life isn't easy or necessarily fair. My prayer, when my husband had his stroke, was "Father, you better get everything you can out of this, because it is hard". I've watched Him use my story to help others. Those hard things you've gone through can help someone else.  Father, I thank you for helping every Senior reading this article to open their eyes, their hearts and their hands for your use. I ask you to open the eyes, hearts and hands to younger folks to receive those gifts. Make room for them in your body, dear Lord. Stir up our hearts to be about our Father's Kingdom no matter what our age. In Jesus' Name, amen. |