

Praying for the Elderly

Key Scripture

“The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.” Prov 20:29

“The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.” Prov 16:31

Scriptural View of the Elderly:

Long life is meant to be a blessing and the Lord desires that an individual’s last days would be filled with promise and hope, fruitfulness, strength, and happiness. The Word of God is filled with examples of those who fulfilled God’s greatest purposes for their lives in their old age.

- Noah was over 500 years old when he built the ark.
- Genesis 17 says that Abraham was 99 years old when God appeared to him and made the covenant with him, promising fruitfulness. Abraham lived to be 175 years old. He was 100 years and Sarah 90 when she gave birth to Isaac. Sarah lived to be 127 years old. Rom 4:19-22 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore, it was imputed to him for righteousness.
- Jacob was 130 years old when he travelled to Egypt to bring his family to a place of safety in the time of famine. He lived another 17 years after this time to a ripe age of 147 years.
- Joseph was probably quite advanced in age when he stood before Pharaoh and was given the responsibility of overseeing all of the affairs of Egypt. He lived to the age of 110 and was very alert and coherent until the time of his death!
- Moses was 80 and Aaron 83 years old when he spoke to Pharaoh. He led them through the wilderness for another 40 years.
- Daniel was over 90 years of age when he received the prophetic word concerning the last days. The angel of the Lord told him, “But you, Daniel, go your way until the end; then you shall enter into rest and shall rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.” Daniel 12:13
- Anna, probably near 100 years old, (a widow for 84 years), never left the temple, and served in the LORD night and day with fastings and with prayers. Anna was a prophetess and it is said, “she continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.” Luke 2:36-38

Mnason was an old disciple from Cyprus mentioned in Acts 21:16. He is described as the man who was loyal to the end. His name means ‘a diligent seeker’. He was described as an “old disciple”. Mnason came into the life of Paul at a needy hour. Friends tried to dissuade Paul from going up to Jerusalem where bonds awaited him, but like His master before him, he resolutely set his face to go to Jerusalem. Mnason accompanied Paul on his last journey and Paul lodged at his hospitable home (Acts 21:16). The figure of Mnason is drawn in the slightest possible outline “with a couple of hasty strokes of the pencil” but he has three characteristics that emulate potential for service in the life of an elderly believer.

1. A disciple of old standing. Can we not picture Paul's bountiful host as a grand old man with hoary head his crown of glory, and a serene face suggesting a kindly Christian heart within? Matthew Henry calls him "An honest old gentleman." The R.V. speaks of him as an early disciple being possibly one of the converts of Peter on the Day of Pentecost. Conybeare and Howson suggest that Mnason was converted during the life of our Lord. There is a tradition that he was one of the twenty that Jesus sent out.
2. Old yet still bearing. The original meaning of disciple is learner. Mnason had the honorable description of being 'an old learner'. Too often we associate learning with the young who when they leave school, speak of their education as 'finished'. But the old man from Cyprus was not too old to learn. On the tombstone of the historian, John R. Green, is the inscription, "He died learning." Paul had been a believer for some twenty-five years when he wrote "That I may know Him," The oldest saint, as well as the youngest Christian, need to obey the exhortation about growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
3. Ready for service although aged. While Mnason was not able to undertake all the long, arduous and perilous missionary journeys Paul faced, he could help those who were called and qualified to do so. He was content to fill a little space even though it was only to give a night's lodging to God's workers. Mnason felt it a privilege to entertain Paul and his companions. Here was one given to ungrudging hospitality, who remained until the end of his day an effective witness to God's faithfulness.

The Lord promised Abraham in Genesis 15:15 that he would live to a 'good old age'. The word "good" is .2896 towb (tobe); good (as an adjective) in the widest sense; beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, at ease, (be in) favour, fine, glad, graciously, joyful, kindly, kindness, liketh (best), loving, merry, X most, pleasant, + pleaseth, pleasure, precious, prosperity, ready, sweet, wealth, (be) well-favored.

A phrase we see in quite frequently in the Bible is that his righteous ones died "full of days." This term means fully satisfied, to have enough, become satiated, to have plenty, to be weary of. This would be the opposite of having one's days cut short, not reaching fulfillment. It is God's will that the righteous be blessed in their old age.

Ps 92:12-14 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; (Palm tree's produce their best fruit when they are old.)

We see contemporary examples of Corrie ten Boom, Billy Graham, and George Wesley whose fruit in their latter years was greater than their early years.

Why do the elderly suffer? Yet if this is true, why do we see so few who are well advanced in years who are serving the Lord in this full and rich way today? I had been asking the Lord for understanding because when working in nursing homes I see so much suffering, dementia, and physical debilitation. I asked the Lord for understanding.

1. **Our bodies are reaping the effects of living in a world full of sin**, not our sin alone, but the sins of the generations and environment also affect our bodies. Romans 8:18-19 says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God...v.22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."

2. **Some natural “wearing out” of the human body is expected.** It is a perishable! However, we have the example of Moses, in Deut. 34:7 where it says “Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.” (NASB) Would we would fare as well after wandering in the wilderness for that many years!!
3. **Dementia and Alzheimer’s pose one of the greatest problems facing the elderly today.** The Word of God has a lot to say about our minds. "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matt 22:37) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;" (Rom 1:28) The Word reprobate means unapproved, unworthy, spurious, or worthless. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (Rom 8:5-6)

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. The Word RENEWING is very interesting: it is the opposite of oldness! 342 anagenesis Ban-ak-ah'-ee-no-sis); from 341; renovation: KJV-- renewing. 341 anakainoo (an-ak-ahee-no'-o); from 303 and a derivative of 2537; to renovate: renew. 2537 kainos (kahee-nos'); of uncertain affinity; new (especially in freshness; while 3501 is properly so with respect to age: KJV-- new. 3501 neos (neh'-os); including the comparative neoteris (neh-o'-ter-os); a primary word; "new", i.e. (of persons) youthful, or (of things) fresh; figuratively, regenerate: KJV-- new, young.

Is the generation that is so plagued with forgetfulness and Alzheimer’s the generation that first began to forget God in our nation? Hosea 7:9 (See Hosea 7:8-16) Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.

4. **Sin/judgement:** His Word reveals that many times these years are a reaping time and a time when the fleshly protections in which people have relied during their lifetimes are taken away. They are seen for what their souls really are, without the camouflage of youth, possessions, health, etc. to protect them. Old age exposes all the faults, habits, obnoxious characteristics and degeneracy of the soul. I believe that God allows this as a means of reaching one who has allowed pride and confidence in the flesh to keep him from God, when possessions, the flesh and many other things in which one trusted are taken away, one’s heart may be prepared to respond to God. The Lord wants us to be sensitive to those at this time who are going through incredible times of trial and suffering and to reach out to them in love and compassion.
5. **Satan and his demons cause suffering:** Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy. His hatred for what God views as precious impels him. He especially targets the weak and helpless. Word study: afflict (See Ps. 10:2 entire chapter) “In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted (any-depressed in mind or circumstances, humble, needy, poor. From 6031 with the idea of looking down upon, browbeating, to depress, abase self, affliction, chasten, deal hardly, defile, exercise, force, gentleness, humble, hurt, ravish, speak, submit, weaken in any wise). ``Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, ¹⁸ how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. Deut 25:17-18 (NASB)

6. **As believers, it is important to have a scriptural understanding of suffering.** It is difficult to watch a person you love suffering, but we need God's wisdom to know when suffering is from Him and to pray that His purposes will be accomplished. Those who seek to end life in order to end suffering are circumventing God's purposes in that He can accomplish through our afflictions. (See Handout).

This is a time for an intercessor to stand in the gap and pray for God's purposes to be completed in this person's life and for Him to bring them to complete salvation. Pray for God to remove hardness of hearts of unbelievers. Statistics say the older a person is, the less likely they are to accept Christ, but NOTHING is impossible for God. Many elderly may not appear to be capable of understanding the Gospel, yet God is still able to reach in their spirit man. Ps. 139 tells us that there is no place that we can go away from God's Spirit. Ps. 139:7-12

ISSUES IN THE WORLD CONFRONTING THE ELDERLY:

1. **Medication in elderly is a major drug problem in America:** Many older people have two or more doctors, each of whom may prescribe different medications. These same people may also use over the counter medications. The aging body does not respond to medication in the same way and the effects of medication may imitate dementia or cause side effects that seriously harm the body. Often more medication is given to treat side effects of other medications. Many nursing home residents take over 20 pills a day.
2. **Quality of Care in Nursing Homes:** The deepest needs all humans require often are not being met in the nursing home setting: Nursing Homes today often see to the medical needs of the elderly but lives are placed on a shelf waiting for ultimate death. Many nursing homes are poorly staffed, staff is poorly trained and poorly paid. Many have become nursing home workers as part of drug or criminal rehabilitation programs. Families are often impatient to see their elderly relatives die because the costs of care are consuming "their inheritance". Repeatedly I have witnessed families make a decision to no longer provide care for their elderly resident, effectively ending their lives in a slow way through withholding of food and water or medications. Terms "compassionate care" or "comfort cares" which withhold medical treatment and even food and water cloak the hidden agenda of euthanasia. Most nursing homes follow a medical model that causes them to be treated for bodily ills but often ignoring their spiritual or emotional needs.
 - a. **The need for dignity.** We are created in the image of God. All people have an inborn desperate need for acceptance. Every human being deserves to be treated with respect and valued as one created by God, made in His image. Genesis 1:26
 - b. **The need for dominion or authority.** Helplessness is one of the main plagues of the elderly. Loss of control over even the most basic aspects of their own care or ability to affect their environment.
 - c. **The need for fruitfulness.** The need for purpose and meaning is an intrinsic part of life. When an individual ceases to be fruitful, they cease to grow. Dr. William H. Thomas, founder of the Eden Alternative, states that all human beings retain the capacity for growth, no matter how weak, disabled or demented, until the last breath is drawn." He sees it as the responsibility of nursing homes to find ways for each resident to continue to grow.
 - d. **The need for blessing and provision. Food, water, shelter.** 1 Tim. 6:18
 - e. **The need for intimate love and companionship.** (Gen. 2:18,20-25) Loneliness and isolation are often the greatest problems facing the elderly and especially those living in nursing homes.

Loneliness stems not from the absence of faces around them, but the loss of closeness and relationship.

2. **Loss of Value in all living beings:** We need to understand God's Word regarding the Sanctity of Life. Our society appears to place less and less value upon the human life as we spiral away from God's Word. Each person is of incredible value to God! He knows each of us by name. In fact, our names are engraved on the palms of His hands. He created and knew us before we were even unformed substance. Pray for and share this message with those elderly individuals in your life who may feel they have lost all of their value. Ps. 139; Jer. 1:5; Job; 12:10; 31:15; Luke 12:6-7; Isa. 49:16
3. **Medical Ethics:** Life and death decisions have become far more complicated with the advance of technologies and concurrent incredible expenses involved in medical care. We are at this time the most technologically advanced people yet our moral judgement is at an all time low. Until recently, the decision of the medical community was almost always to fight for life, but more and more as we see our society's value of life deteriorating and the cost of medical care increasing, the medical community has forsaken the traditional stance of "do no harm" to look for ways to speed up the death process and in many cases, decisions are being made to end life on the basis of age and not upon a person's medical prognosis to recover. Medical technology while marvelously saving lives, tempts mankind to believe that we hold the keys to life and death in our hands.
4. **Hippocratic Oath:** "I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel, furthermore, I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion. ...with purity and holiness, I will pass my life and practice my art...Into whatever houses I enter I will go into them for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption..." After WWII following the atrocities of the Nazi medical experiments, the Hippocratic Oath was updated and stated clearly "I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the time of conception, even under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity." These statements regarding sanctity of life have been removed from the current version of this oath.
5. **Advanced Directives:** Advanced Directives and Living Wills are often extremely deceitful. Many sign directives thinking this will prevent them from being kept unnaturally alive after their brains have stopped functioning, but in fact, it gives authority to even withhold food and water, considering them to be medical treatment. Do not resuscitate orders would legally prevent a trained nurse from performing CPR on a patient who is otherwise healthy but may be choking at the table.
6. **Assisted Suicide: Euthanasia:** Example Joni Erickson Tada.
 - There are a lot of statistics regarding the number of babies being aborted every day, but this is likely just the tip of the iceberg compared to the number of elderly whose lives are being deliberately ended by physicians and by families on a daily basis. This may be accomplished through neglect, the withholding of simple means provisions necessary to life (food, water, medications, or medical treatment). In other cases, deliberate and active measures are being taken to end life.
 - Holland has practiced euthanasia for more than thirty years. Initially the legislation was passed allowing physician assisted suicide in cases where the patient was terminally ill and requested death when there were no other reasonable solutions. They have moved from voluntary

euthanasia to involuntary euthanasia where these decisions are made by the physicians, often without the knowledge or consent of the patient. A survey of doctors in 1990 found that of the nearly 12,000 deaths where doctors played an active role, 8% were involuntary euthanasia. These 1,000 patients died after a doctor injected a lethal drug without patient consent. Another 8,100 cases were discovered where doctors had deliberately administered painkillers for the sake of shortening a patient's life. Overall, more patients were killed or their lives shortened without patient consent than upon patient request. What started out to be a solution for terminally ill patients moved to euthanasia of patients with chronic illnesses or disabilities, then handicapped and elderly and now to mentally incompetent or depressed. Elderly and very ill patients fear going to the hospital in Holland for fear that they will not be allowed to return alive.

- In 1994 the Dutch Supreme Court ruled that mental suffering can be grounds for euthanasia. Case of Netty Boomsma, age 50, a mentally competent, healthy social worker, who requested suicide 2 months after her 20-year-old son died of cancer and following the suicide of her other son some years earlier. Although other professionals suggest bereavement therapy, Dr. Chabot felt therapy was futile. In 2002 the Termination of Life on Request and Assisted Suicide Act, was passed which allows the ending of lives where there is "unbearable suffering" without hope of relief. At this time, it was legal for young, healthy adults to be assisted in suicide if they are experiencing mental suffering. Even advocates of the initial legislation fear they have entered a slippery slope that causes people to be progressively less protective of life. Handicapped and individuals with intellectual disabilities are also being given lethal doses to end their lives.
- Oregon passed the Assisted Suicide Bill in 1994 and became the first state to allow physician assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. Now 8 states allow euthanasia and other states are seeking to pass legislation as well. While it used to be called "Assisted Suicide" it is now referred to as "death with dignity."
- In the United States, in every location, death is often hastened in the elderly without their permission or even their knowledge. This can take the form of withholding of even very ordinary means of sustaining life, including withholding of food, water, and medications. Morphine is often given with the explanation that it is for pain or to aid the person who is struggling to breathe. Morphine actually is a respiratory inhibitor that tells the brain it does not need oxygen. When it is given the person stops struggling to breathe but becomes deprived of oxygen. Many individuals given regular "morphine treatments" die in their sleep.

It is God's will for His people to watch out for those who cannot speak for themselves. Be willing to touch their lives. Ask the Lord to show you how He wants you to get involved in the lives of elderly individuals. Visit elderly relatives, believers, or unsaved in their homes or at the nursing home. Minister to their spiritual and physical needs in whatever way the Lord shows you. Prov. 31:8-9; Matt 25:31-40

The attached Prayer Guide can be used in your individual prayer times, or in a prayer group. Look up the verses provided with each prayer point. God's Word is a powerful spiritual weapon in our prayer arsenal!

PRAYING FOR THE ELDERLY

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Blessing of Naomi: Ruth 4:14-15

Pray that the elderly would not be left without a kinsman to care for them in their old age
That there would be one who can be a restorer (7725) of their lives
That there would be those to nourish (3557) them in their old age

David's Prayer in Old Age: Psalm 71

Campbell McAlpine's Prayer for the next generation v. 17-18

God's Promises for the righteous in old age:

Ps 92:12-15 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Isa 46:3-4 Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

SPECIFIC POINTS FOR PRAYER:

1. **Pray for a transforming and renewing of our minds toward those who are aging:**
 - a. Pray that believers to have God's views and attitudes toward aging and toward the elderly.
 - b. Ask the Lord to grant special sensitivity and respect in treating the elderly, handicapped and other vulnerable members of our society. Matt. 9:36; Matt. 14:14; Luke 10:33-37
 - c. Pray for a godly view toward suffering. Pray that His purposes will be accomplished through all trials so that momentary light affliction in this body will produce an eternal weight of glory. 1 Cor. 15:51-58; 2 Cor. 1:8-11; Phil. 3:10; Romans 8:28; 35-39; Lamentations 3:27-42; Ps. 119:71,91; Gen. 50:19,20; Luke 22:31-32
 - d. Pull down strongholds erected in our minds through the world's way of thinking that worships youth and devalues old age. 2 Cor. 10:3-5
 - e. Pray that the elders of our communities will be valued by younger generations for their wisdom and respected for their experiences in life from which we can learn. Pray that the Church will realize her desperate need for the elderly members and not "retire" them from service. 1 Timothy 5:17
 - f. Pray that this nation will once again recognize the sanctity of human life and recognize God as the One Sovereign ruler over life and death. Gen. 9:5; John 3:16; Deut. 30:15-20; 32:39; Isa. 45:6-7; 2 Sam. 2:6-10; Prov. 16:4; Daniel 4:35

- g. Pray for discernment to avoid deceptive “humanistic and New Age” health care philosophies and treatments that devalue the sanctity of life. Pray that doctors and other professionals would put away false knowledge and occult practices infiltrating medical field.
 - h. Pray that God will grant strength to fight for what is right and not passively allow continued devaluation of life to occur. Deut. 18:10-12
2. **Lift up those who are aged, weak, or helpless:**
- a. Pray that believers will renew their minds and be fruitful in their latter years. Pray that all believers will continue to grow in their knowledge of God all the days of their lives. 2 Cor. 4:15; Rom. 12:1,2; Matt. 22:37; Rom. 1:28; Rom. 5:8-6; 1 Cor. 2:16
 - b. Pray for restoration of the elderly believers’ minds and bodies so that they may walk in renewed vigor and strength, serving Him all the days of their lives. Luke 2:36-38; Acts 21:16; Ps. 92:12-14; Rom. 8:18-19,22; Deut. 34:7
 - c. Pray also for believers to strengthen and encourage the hands of the elderly believers and continue to call them to daily take up their cross and follow him. Heb. 12:12; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; 2 Cor. 4:8-18
 - d. Pray for laborers to be sent into the harvest field to reach those who have reached their senior years and do not know Christ. Stand in the gap and pray for mercy for those who have hardened their hearts and turned away from Him during their lifetimes Luke 10:1-2; Matt. 25:31-46; Ps. 139:7-16
 - e. Intercede for salvation and restoration for those who have been chastised by the Lord, that their youth might be renewed. See Job 33:15-33, esp. v. 25
3. **Pray for the nursing homes and staff:**
- a. Put feet to your prayers! Ask the Lord to give you a list of nursing homes to pray for on a regular basis. Prayer walk hospitals, nursing homes or assisted living facilities that treat the elderly. Ask the Lord to send His light and His truth into the walls. Stand against any spirits of death or oppression that you discern in the building. Josh. 1:3,5-6
 - b. Removal of a spirit of greed that puts making a profit above meeting the needs of their residents. Pray for the large corporations which own most of nursing homes in this country. Isaiah 10:2; Luke 12:15; Col. 3:5-6; 2 Peter 2:3
 - c. Pray for those who are in professions of service to the elderly that their hearts will be filled with love and compassion toward the elderly, that they will minister to them in respect with a servant’s heart. Job 12:12-13; Lev 19:32; 1 John 4:11; James 1:27; 1 Peter 4:10; Col. 3:12
 - d. Pray for finances and insurance coverage that there would be enough staff with training and resources to provide good care for every nursing home resident. Ps. 68:5
 - e. Staff burnout is a very real problem, especially when daily facing death and decline of those they care for. Pray for staff to be strengthened, that they would not become weary with well doing or hardened of heart. 2 Thes. 3:13; 2 Chr.15:7
 - f. Minister to the spiritual needs of the elderly. Pray for ministries and prayer groups to be raised up within all nursing homes. Pray that the elderly will not be isolated from the larger body of Christ, but that they will come into their place and remain productive. Ps. 68:6; Ps. 25:16; Psalm 102
4. **Pray for the medical profession:**
- a. Pray that God would be honored and glorified in the medical profession. Pray for the top leaders of medical schools, U.S. Surgeon General, Chief executives of pharmaceutical companies, leaders of AMA, and other professional medical organizations and research institutions. 1 Tim. 2:1-4
 - b. Pray God would make His ways known and He be acknowledged as the source of all life and health Col. 3:12-14; John 10:10; 2 Chr.16:12; Ps. 39:4; Mark 5:26-28; Deut. 30:15-19; Ps. 139:13-16

- c. Pray for revelation knowledge that God is the one who ultimately holds health and healing in His hand. 3 John 2: Ps. 92:12-15; Isaiah 46:3-4; Ex. 15:26; Deut. 28:58-61; 30:15-16
- d. Ask the Lord for their salvation, that they might know the truth John 8:31-32
- e. Ask the Lord to raise up consecrated men and women to fill these positions who are dedicated to His ways and willing to walk in honesty and integrity and who will choose life. Ps. 119:35-38
- f. Pray for God to guide the use of medication with the aging.

5. Pray for the Church and families with elderly members:

- a. Pray for the Church to be the leader in care for the weak and elderly. Let the Church be willing to reach out and adopt the lonely. James 1:27; Isa. 58:7; 1 Thes. 1:3; 5:1 Isa. 35:3-4; Romans 15:1-4; Col. 3:12; Eph.2:10
- a. Pray for families to have wisdom and compassion for their elderly members, especially pray for God to give them wisdom and discernment regarding appropriate medical decisions and care appropriate to the season. Ps. 68:6; Eph. 6:2-3; 1 Tim. 5:4,8; Daniel 2:20-22; Eccles. 13:1-3
- b. Pray for the Lord to open creative solutions to provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of their aging relatives. Revolutionize our family structures so that we can care for our members at home as often as possible. 1 Tim. 5:3-4, 16; Eph. 4:16
- c. Pray for the Lord to be Jehovah Jireh to meet the physical and financial needs of the elderly so that they can receive the care they need. Gen. 22:11; Eph. 4:17-19
- d. Pray for a godly view toward death and suffering. Pray that His purposes will be accomplished through all trials so that momentary light affliction in this body will produce an eternal weight of glory. 1 Cor. 15:51-58; 2 Cor. 1:8-11
- e. Pray for those who struggle with life and death decisions, to will choose life over convenience.
- f. Pray that they will discern the seasons and know when it is the time to live and the time to die. Eccles. 13:1-3 Pray for wisdom when the day approaches that the LORD would give clear revelation that it is His time. When the time of death is near, help them to know how to comfort and aid but never to do harm. Deut. 30:19-20; James 1:5 Pray for His protection, that their “home going would be filled with His Spirit and light. Ps. 23:4,6; Ps. 116:15; Rom. 8:35-39; John 14:1-3; John 1:25-26; 1 Cor. 15:53-57; Ps. 121:3, 48:14; 73:24-26; Rev. 14:13

6. Pray for our nation and those in authority:

- a. Pray for godly involvement and wisdom to permeate our state and federal legislatures and courts where decisions regarding “right to life” are being made. Pray for an overthrow of recent legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia bills have passed. Dan. 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:1-4
- b. Pray for those in our government to establish a health care plan for our nation that reflects godly principles. Pray that such a care plan would have God’s wisdom and guidance Prov. 3:5-6 Pray that any portions of the “Affordable Health Care Act” that would limit insurance to those of a certain age or medical condition would be overturned.
- c. Pray for godly involvement and wisdom to permeate our state and federal legislature where decisions regarding “right to life” are being made. Pray for an overthrow of recent legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia bills have passed. Dan. 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:1-40.
- d. Repent that as a nation, we have turned from God and ceased to value life. Ask God to change hearts that have become calloused and casual toward issues of life and death. 2 Chr 7:13-14
- e. Pray that our nation would once again turn to God and desire to walk in His ways. That America can be a light to the world, especially those nations who have devalued life and legislated euthanasia and assisted suicide.