

OLD, NOT OBSOLETE

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. August 30, 2026.

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AGING: OPPORTUNITY OR OBSTACLE?

Older people have so much wisdom, experience, and knowledge.

- We can be a resource in our family, church, and community.
- Timothy's grandmother is an example of an older person with influence.

TIMOTHY'S BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

- Timothy is first mentioned in Acts 16:

Acts 16:1-5 (CSB) Paul went on to Derbe and Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman, but his father was a Greek. 2 The brothers and sisters at Lystra and Iconium spoke highly of him. 3 Paul wanted Timothy to go with him; so he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, since they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they traveled through the towns...

- Born circa AD 28 in Lystra, modern Turkey.
- His father was a Gentile - a non-Jew. Probably a polytheist.
- His mother and grandmother were originally devout Jews who later came to faith in Jesus.
- Timothy was possibly converted during Paul's first visit to Lystra (Acts 14).
- Timothy had matured into a well-regarded disciple by Paul's second visit.
- Paul made Timothy a member of his traveling mission team.
- At some stage, Paul and a council of elders "ordained" Timothy through laying on of hands (1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6).

- Paul assigned Timothy to carry messages to churches in Corinth, Philippi, and Thessaloniki (1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3).
- Paul sent Timothy to “sort out” the church in Ephesus (1 Timothy 3-4).
- Timothy was Paul’s trusted co-worker and dearly loved son (Romans 16:21; 2 Timothy 1:2). His grandmother laid the early foundations for it all.

AN INFLUENTIAL GRANDPARENT

First, Timothy’s grandmother modeled genuine Christian faith:

2 Timothy 1:5 (CSB) I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and now, I am convinced, is in you also.

- She had “sincere faith;” it was genuine, tested faith in Christ as God and Savior.
- She lived like a Christian, a fully devoted follower of Jesus.
- She couldn’t control Timothy’s response to Christ, but she could give him a believable picture of faith to watch.

Secondly, Timothy’s grandmother taught him the Bible:

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (CSB) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, 15 and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

- She began teaching him in “infancy” - when he was a baby.
- The Scriptures laid the groundwork for his faith; they made him “wise for salvation.”
- It’s never too early for grandparents to teach about Jesus and the Bible.

THREE TAKEAWAYS

1. We may be old, but we're not obsolete.

- We have so much to offer the next generation.

"... old age can be the most fruitful period of our life (Psalm 92:14; 103:5) ... To the end of our life we may discover the good works God has prepared for us to do in whatever circumstances we find ourselves ... How sad it is if we so regret not doing what we have so much enjoyed doing in the past that we fail to see what God has for us to do in the present" (A Good Old Age. Derek Prime. 2017).

- Don't let anyone tell you that you're past your expiration date.
- Pray for and take every opportunity to influence people for Jesus.

2. We have decades of wisdom to offer.

- Jen Wilkin describes the myth that older people "become has-beens, marking time until our bodies give out on us" (<https://www.crossway.org/articles/6-lies-culture-wants-you-to-believe-about-aging>). She wrote *Dust to Dust: Aging Wisely in an Anti-aging World*.
- Older people have decades of knowledge, experience, skill, and wisdom. We can be trusted guides for the next generation. See Psalm 92:14-15.
- Pray for opportunities to share.

3. If you're younger, find an older mentor.

- Pray, then look for a trusted, wise friend. Ask them questions about the situations you face. Glean their wisdom and experience.
- Don't wait for the mentor to speak into your life; instead, ask them questions.
- The Cornerstone family is full of senior, wise, and godly saints who would be delighted to help, encourage, and guide you. Pray about it, and ask.

Six Lies Culture Tells Us About Aging

Our culture often treats aging as a loss to fear rather than a season to embrace. In an online article¹, Bible teacher Jen Wilkin identifies six cultural lies about growing older—and the biblical truths that counter them. Here is a summary:

1. **Lie 1: Aging strips identity.** Culture says we shift from "is and does" to "was and did." Scripture calls aging a completion instead, noting the righteous "still bear fruit in old age" (Ps. 92:14).
2. **Lie 2: The elderly are obsolete.** Like outdated gadgets, culture discards the old as irrelevant. The Bible calls them invaluable, worthy of honor for their wisdom (Lev. 19:32).
3. **Lie 3: Wisdom belongs to the young.** Social media elevates youthful "influencers" over experience. Yet Job 12:12 insists, "wisdom is found among the aged."
4. **Lie 4: Aging is a disease to medicate away.** Culture pushes concealment through injections and surgery. Scripture calls gray hair "a crown of glory" (Prov. 16:31), a gift to steward, not hide.
5. **Lie 5: The elderly are a burden.** Radical individualism frames dependency as failure. The Bible names caregiving for aging parents a sacred, expected duty (Ex. 20:12).
6. **Lie 6: Age is just a number.** This popular platitude denies time's impact. Psalm 90:12 urges us to "number our days" wisely, treating each one as precious.

The world's anti-aging story runs on fear; the Bible's story of aging runs on joy—growing in wisdom, depth, and value with every passing year as we follow Jesus faithfully until the end. Run the race and do not give up.

Written with AI assistance.

¹ ¹ <https://www.crossway.org/articles/6-lies-culture-wants-you-to-believe-about-aging>