

Growing Older

I don't mind growing older, but I don't want to be thought of as old. To be old is to be no longer needed and time for replacement. I don't like people telling me what to do (this has been a problem since I was about 5 years old). I was an opinionated child and have turned into an opinionated older person. I like to read about the people in the bible, the lived extremely long lives. I have found growing old is not so bad. The people at the hair salon always want to walk me to my car and put my walker in the trunk. People will often run ahead of me and open doors, servers will make sure I am comfortable and make an effort to make sure I have what I need. People will sometimes pay for my meal which is always a very nice surprise. This actually started a few years ago when I went out alone to lunch on Valentine's Day. My husband was then in the final stages of Alzheimer's, and it was difficult to take him out. I always took a book to read and was trying not to think of other Valentine's Days when we had shared a dinner together at a restaurant. When I reminded my server, I had not received my check she told me it had all been taken care of. I was shocked but grateful at such a thoughtful gesture. I have even had a waiter pay for my meal which I thought was an extremely thoughtful act. He is a very special young man and has requested that I always sit in his section. I think that I remind people of their grandmother. A very depressing thought unless their grandmothers are young. I had two grandmothers. One had given birth to 14 children and lost 3 at young ages. She raised 11. She was not fond of small children. She died at the age of 50 and her children began fighting and never stopped. My other grandmother was actually my father's stepmother. My father's mother had died at a young age. She was a model for all the evil stepmothers in Disney movies and did not like me one little bit and I did not like her. But my grandfather more than made up for it. He was a delight, and I adored him. I found being a grandmother one of the best times in my life. I spent a lot of time with my three grandchildren. Now I have great grandchildren. There are three and I see my two granddaughters in them. They are delightful and although I don't get to see them as often as I would like we have established a good relationship, and I look forward to seeing them soon. God has blessed me with longevity and with great grandchildren. I look at my life and know I have been a nurse who once prayed for her patients while they slept, and I was making rounds. When working in the Nursery, I prayed for the babies. There was one I have never forgotten. He was a large (12 pounds) baby that was named Obadiah. I felt he was starting life with two problems. He was overweight and named Obadiah. I would hold him and talk to him about patience and forbearance and sneak in some about God's love. I loved being a nurse. It was a profession but also a calling.

Dear Lord, we thank you for lives well lived. For the times you have guided our paths, for the blessings of love and families. We thank you for Pastor Don, bring him back safely to us. Be with his family, bless and keep them. We thank you for the times you have saved us when we have called to you. We thank you for our Missionary Team in Africa, bring them safely home. Guide them in all they do. We thank you for Pastor Regan who gave us your message these last two weeks and thank you for Don Weaver who led the service. Be with our staff and leaders, bless them in all they do. Amen.

J. Ellsworth Kalas quote: "Growing older is a process. Growing old is a conclusion"

Robert Browning: "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be. The last of life for which the first was made."

Grace Epperson