

## **Things I Have Learned In 90 Plus Years**

1. Don't eat fresh tomatoes while wearing a white top.
2. Never trust a weather reporter. We once had 12 inches of partly cloudy in our driveway.
3. Don't bother with a timer when you cook. The meat is done when the smoke alarm goes off.
4. Never buy clothes after lunch, it's depressing.
5. If you haven't heard from your adult children, send them a message such as, "Don't worry about us, the police said it wasn't our fault." They'll call.
6. Always be nice to your pastors. If anything happens to you, they will do the funeral, and you want them to say nice things.

But there are more important lessons I have learned. We never walk alone; God is with us. When we are at our lowest, love will come from the highest. Our paths may seem crooked, but God will use them to take us to him. People are basically good and can be trusted. Friends are God's way of saying, "I am with you," cherish them. God uses people to help each other, accept that and let them help when you need help. Church is a family of friends, never be without them. Do what you can to reach out to others, the rewards are great. Forgive others and seek forgiveness when you are wrong. Open your hearts to others, they may trample it but then again, they may cherish it. Grudges are really heavy to carry and after a while seem such a burden, it is easier to let them go. Prayer brings us closer to God. There is a reason the Bible is a best seller, read it often and seek to understand it, it is a good guide from a good God. When asked to do something you think you cannot do, pray about and then trust God and others to help you. We need pastors, and pastors need us, we are in this journey called church together, cherish and support them. And the hardest lesson to learn, forgive yourself because God has already forgiven you.

The funny thing about lessons learned. It never stops. I know there will be more lessons because God is not through with me yet.

Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?" And who will go for us? And I said, Here I am, send me.

Lord, thank you for a life well lived, thank you for mistakes made and lessons learned. Be with your church Lord, may it be open to all and pleasing to you. Be with those who are suffering, those who are hurting, those who are hungry or homeless, may they feel your presence in their lives. We thank you Lord for the days given to us. May we use them well and to your glory. Be with our pastor and his family, bless them in all they do. Be with our staff and leaders guide and protect them. Bless those who are ill and those who are grieving. Be with them. Be with our country Lord, guide and protect us. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

Grace Epperson