

# Faith Talk

*Trinity Canadian Reformed Church*

*Worshipping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E*

Getting Older  
By Patricia Gelms

“Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life” Proverbs 16:31. My husband and I read this verse the other night and quickly surveyed the others’ hair. It was a toss up as to whose hair showed more righteousness.

Solomon has many such gems in his book of proverbs. This particular one does not mean that our hair color determines our righteousness level. Rather, Solomon says that we are to view old age not as a time of physical weakness and decline but as a time of authority, status and dignity. This is a beautiful view of old age. It may not be a view that is readily acceptable among the aging generation, however, because often with old age comes discomfort and ill health. I do not think Solomon discounts this with his proverb. He wants to focus on the advantages of old age. The upside to being elderly is the life experience gained from having a head full of gray hair.

My grandmother is about to reach the grand age of 90. She has seen a lot of life. She became a widow at age 37, a single mom of five, immigrating to Canada at age 40. The amazing attribute about her is her faith. How beautiful it is to see that she trusts in God in all circumstances. The elderly have an important part to play in the lives of us younger folk. Now is the time they can show their children and grandchildren their faith.

God also urges us in his word to respect the elderly. He says in Leviticus 19:32, “Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.” Respecting parents and honoring grandparents was an integral part of Israel’s obedience to God. With old age people experience pain, sorrow, and the broken-ness of life. Life’s later years may not be as golden as society portrays them, but they do come with a crown of splendor when one trusts in God. He will prepare a place for all his children, young and old.

*Patricia Gelms is a member of Trinity Canadian Reformed Church.*

<http://www.trinitycanrc.org>

Contact us at [faithtalk@trinitycanrc.org](mailto:faithtalk@trinitycanrc.org)