

ESTEEMED ELDERS
[written in oral form]

Leviticus 19:32 & Deuteronomy 32:7
Esteemed Elders Sunday

June 21, 2020
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According to my longevity, our culture considers me to be a senior.
I even have a document from the prime minister and my MP that confirms this. []

I really do not consider myself a senior,... and you do not have to either. :)

I try to avoid things that remind me of my age, including the mirror.
One could say that I am in denial.

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Okay,.....maybe I have some traits that reveal my age, such as just the other day,.... I think it was in 1981. :)

Ah.....tempus fugit..... time flies.....

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I am proudly a grandfather and.....perhaps a senior, but I am not an elder. An Elder is completely on another level.

For one, denial of age is no longer an option, YET in that is the seed of great wisdom.
Accepting finitude radically changes one's perspective.

There is illumination in seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

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Elders have arrived at a new level. Not only are they rich in life experiences, but they also have wisdom.

Life and finitude have granted them a deeper understanding--wisdom.

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An important aspect of that wisdom is "Letting go."

Elders have released control over many things, including their children. For example, a wise elder will allow those who are younger to determine when they should cease driving a car.

Letting go is a significant trait of mystic spirituality,...which enhances profound wisdom.

This letting go does Not make one lesser or insignificant.

Not at all.

This shift in position invites listening. It opens ears to wisdom.  
An elder is no longer a threat, but instead is a delightful resource.

An elder is no longer the captain that demands submission.

They are more like the navigator.

They teach us lessons and show us the way.

Consider John's children's story.

Younger people readily tune into an elder. Instinctively, we know we need the wisdom, and we respect an elder's story and insight.

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When I was a teenager, I tried to ignore what my father said to me, even if it was good advice. However, I remember getting a letter from my paternal grandfather, during my first year at university. That letter made a huge impact, even though he made numerous references to Romans 7. You recall that section? It's about doing things you know you should not do,....sin and evil,... and so forth.

He was preaching to me,.....and I accepted it and listened to his words. Although, I think my parents may have advised him before he wrote it. ;)

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A couple years later, my grandfather was encouraged to write his memoirs, and so, late in his life he did. He called it, "Listening to God...lessons from a long life."

Lessons from a long life....[show very thin book] You'd think it would be a bigger book. :)

It is actually insightful, and there is wisdom in carefully choosing your words.

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I have fond memories of my grandparents, and appreciated their stories / their wisdom. Unfortunately, my maternal grandmother lived in Kindersley, SK, and my paternal grandfather lived in Woodstock NB, when I was growing up in Toronto. I did not get to see them that often.

So, I was blessed to have an elder in my church be a surrogate grandparent. She lived a couple blocks away, and I would frequently stop in for free cookies and free appreciation. I called her grandma Johnson.

When I was around 7 or 8, she made a quilt for me. [ ] This is one of my precious possessions.

Elders.....and mentors,..... a tangible memory, for those you are nurturing, can means a lot.

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Elders are important to the church.... and for healthy living for all of us. We need the navigators. We need their perspective/ their wisdom.

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**Our** Elders are considered to be part of the "Silent Generation".

Please do not be silent. We are listening. We need to know your stories, especially about how we got here...to where we are now.

As it states in Deuteronomy 32:7: we need to remember the days of old, including the struggles and the failures. They are like stars in the sky that inform us about our present position.

Navigators / Elders.....we need your wisdom.

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In addition, let us heed the message in Leviticus, not only because it is prudent, but also because it comes with God's stamp of approval. Hear it again:

"You shall rise before the aged, and defer to the old; *This is bolstered with the authority--*
AND you shall fear your God! I am the Lord.

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Let us listen!

And,.....let us say the litany for our Esteemed Elders that is on your screen.