LIVING ON MEMORIES

Being in my mid 80’s now, I have an understanding of older people that I never had before. I’ve always thought I empathized with people growing older but now realize those were feeble efforts.

I understand more now why it is that old people talk a lot about the past. We have so few active experiences because of age and infirmity, that we have more to talk about, thinking of the past. This is true, even though most of us have trouble remembering things.

While the Bible says, “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.” “The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.” (Lev. 19:32; Prov. 20:29 ESV) We are finding that not many of the “younger set” have much patience, or respect for the aged.

It is their loss. They do not begin to realize what value the information they could obtain by associating and listening to people who have traveled and navigated this path, although years before them. The aged have learned lessons that would save a lot of heartache, if only the young would listen.

We who live in America, live in the greatest country in the world. However, unfortunately our society has fostered an attitude that is conducive to hurt, heartache and sometimes ruin. Those who are younger have developed the attitude of “knowing better” than those who have lived longer and experienced more.

There is nothing wrong with memories. Especially the good ones.

wordsradio@gmail.com
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