

Shalom!

Welcome to this reflection on the words of life. The Bible teaches us an important principle about spiritual maturity using a symbol we often overlook: grey hair.

1. Grey Hair as a Symbol of Honor and Righteousness

Proverbs 16:31 (ESV) says:

“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.”

In the physical realm, grey hair is often associated with age, wisdom, and honor. In Scripture, it becomes a spiritual metaphor for maturity and glory attained through a life lived in righteousness. Just as one does not instantly grow grey hair but accumulates it over time, spiritual growth is also a process—not a one-time confession.

Unfortunately, many people treat salvation as a one-time event: they confess Christ, get baptized, and then simply wait to go to heaven. They postpone growth, thinking, “I’ll serve God when I’m older,” or “once I’ve achieved my life goals.” But such attitudes

rob us of rich opportunities to grow in grace and in intimacy with God.

2. Spiritual Growth Mirrors Physical Growth

Physical life unfolds in stages—infancy, youth, adulthood, and old age. So it is with the spiritual life. We begin as spiritual infants (1 Peter 2:2), grow into maturity (Ephesians 4:13–15), and are expected to press on toward full spiritual adulthood.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV) says:

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.”

Just as we would be concerned if an adult acted like a child, God is concerned when we remain spiritually immature year after year. Growth is not optional—it is the evidence of a living, vibrant relationship with Christ.

3. God Honors the Spiritually Mature

In the Old Testament, God commands honor toward the elderly not just for their age, but for the wisdom and dignity accumulated

over time.

Leviticus 19:32 (ESV):

“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.”

This principle extends into the spiritual realm. Spiritual elders—those who have walked faithfully with God for years—are to be honored. Their spiritual “grey hairs” are not literal but are seen in their faithfulness, perseverance, humility, and fruitfulness.

4. The 24 Elders in Heaven: A Picture of Spiritual Maturity

In Revelation, we’re introduced to twenty-four elders who sit around God’s throne. These are heavenly beings who represent maturity, honor, and closeness to God.

Revelation 4:4 (ESV):

“Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.”

Their appearance as elders is significant. Why not young people or children? Because these elders symbolize deep spiritual maturity—those who have lived lives of worship, endurance, and complete devotion to God.

Even Christ is described in the language of age and wisdom in His glorified state:

Revelation 1:14 (ESV):

“The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire.”

The whiteness of His hair reveals His eternal wisdom and divine authority. Jesus, the Ancient of Days, models the kind of spiritual maturity we are called to pursue.

5. Why Spiritual Grey Hairs Matter

The sobering reality is that not all believers mature spiritually. Some remain spiritual infants for decades. They attend services, hear sermons, but never grow in obedience, character, or service. When asked what they’ve done for the Kingdom, they have nothing to show—not because they couldn’t, but because they

wouldn't.

Salvation is more than a status—it's a journey. Every day, our actions, prayers, sacrifices, and obedience are shaping our eternal inheritance.

2 Peter 1:10-11 (ESV):

“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Not everyone will have the same experience in eternity. While all the redeemed are saved by grace, rewards and responsibilities in heaven differ based on our faithfulness (see 1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

6. Let Us Be Recognized in Heaven by Our Spiritual Grey Hairs

Let this be your resolve: when you enter eternity, may you be recognized not as a spiritual infant, but as one crowned with spiritual grey hairs—one who walked with God, served Him

faithfully, grew in love, truth, and holiness.

Do not waste your earthly life pursuing only what is temporary. Invest in your spiritual walk. Serve Christ now. Grow in grace. Bear fruit. Because heaven will recognize those who lived well—not just those who believed.

Philippians 3:12-14 (ESV):

“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own... I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Let us desire, from this moment on, to draw closer to God daily—so that when we stand before Him, the weight of our walk with Him will be evident—not by physical appearance, but by the glory of our spiritual maturity.

Maranatha - the Lord is coming.

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