



Spirit of Grace

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Herald

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Youth & Age

January is the beginning of the new year, and it is the time we sometimes reflect upon our lives – where we have been, where we seem

to be going, and (especially when you reach a certain age) how many years have already passed. Our world puts a premium on youth. Products are usually pitched on TV by the young and beautiful. When movie stars reach a certain age they frequently transition from being "leading



men" to "character actors." In the classic novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, one of the characters tells Dorian: "Your youth will last such a little time. The common hill-flowers wither, but they blossom again... But we never get back our youth. The pulse of joy that beats in us at twenty becomes sluggish. Our limbs fail, our senses rot. We degenerate into hideous puppets, haunted by the memory of the passions of which we were too much afraid, and the exquisite temptations that we had not the courage to yield to. Youth! Youth! There is absolutely nothing in the world but youth!"

I'm sure I'm in the minority, but sometimes when I see a young person in their late teens or early twenties I breathe a sigh of relief and thank the Lord for the years of my life that have already passed. I am now in that season of my life where young people see me as old and old people see me as ... well, if not young at least not that old! But no matter how you slice it, the days of my youth are well behind me. And somehow I really don't mind. Youth may have been the great quest for Peter Pan (and Michael Jackson) but I can't help but feel that age has certain perks that make up for the obvious negatives.

I freely admit that, if you remove God from the picture, I might almost find myself agreeing with Dorian Gray's friend. If we were all headed toward the abyss of extinction of life and cessation of consciousness, it would hardly make sense to take pleasure in our advancing age and approaching extermination. But Jesus Christ has changed all that. His death on the cross, His resurrection, and His as-



urance of eternal life for all who trust in Him have released "those who through fear of death were all their life-time subject to bondage."

As a believer I am finding some aspects of my life vastly superior to the days of my youth. For one thing my relationship with the Lord is far more intimate and fulfilling than it ever was, even in the days just following my new birth. I have no right to compare myself with others, but I know one thing for sure: the Dennis of today has a far richer walk with the Lord than the Dennis of the 1970's (and is more useful). I don't get as nervous as I once did. Decades of struggles and victories, seasons of abundance and seasons of little have taught me Jesus can be trusted – trusted with my material needs and trusted to be the Keeper of my soul.

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Partnering with Us

Spirit of Grace Ministries is able to carry on the work we do because God moves on hearts to support this ministry. **The evangelistic meetings, the leadership conferences, and the schools of ministry all are made possible by gifts from our friends.** Would you consider partnering with us in 2010?



Over many years of serving the Lord Jesus, and much study of the Scriptures Dennis has come to learn a few things about and appreciate the marvelous way that God leads His children. In connection with this Dennis has recorded a teaching series titled **Know the Will of God**. In this 7-CD series Dennis teaches some of the fundamental principles of Scripture on finding and walking in God's will. You will be blessed and helped as you listen to these life-changing teachings.

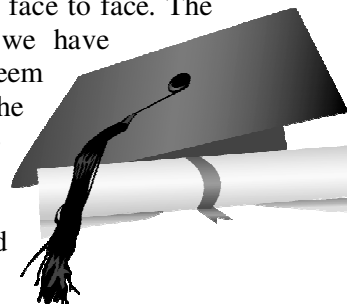
This important series is our gift to all who would write and let us know of their intention to be a "Friend of Grace" in 2010. A Friend of Grace is someone who commits to support SOGM with a gift of \$25 per month or more. (The contributions can be in one sum or monthly). If you are already a Friend of Grace, just send us a note requesting this series with your next contribution, and we will send it to you. It is yours for the asking, but you have to ask!

Youth & Age

There is an interesting Scripture in the Psalms that compares maturity to a weaned child. Most young Christians, myself included, soon become whining, sniveling, pleading, begging children as we come before our Heavenly Father with our needs, wishes, demands, and complaints. As we get a little older in the Lord, and hopefully a bit wiser, we come to see that it is not our agenda that counts; it is God's. And with His will we will be content. We become weaned from our own demands and selfish ambitions.

As we age we recognize that many of the painful times of breaking and molding, which God has written into the scripts of our lives, are now in the past. We may have more to come but at least a great many of these are behind us. And for that we are grateful. There will be no tears in heaven.

Best of all is the knowledge that our graduation day is not so far off. The day will soon be here when we see our Lord face to face. The difficulties we have faced, the sacrifices we have made, and the crosses we have borne will seem as nothing then. The wrinkles on our faces, the slowness of step and painful joints, the emotional bruises and cuts will be instantly cured in the healing presence of the Lord Jesus. And every Christmas, every birthday, and every New Year brings us one step closer.



Burundi This Month

Dennis will be ministering in Bujumbura, Burundi this month. By the time you receive this newsletter the meetings should be nearly ended. You can be more specifically informed about the ministry's needs and prayer concerns by joining our email prayer team. Dennis will send you emails with the latest ministry prayer requests, so that you can partner with us in seeking the throne of grace on behalf of this ministry.

To join our email prayer team, simply send an email indicating your willingness to join your prayers with ours to: **dpollock@sogmin.org**.

Thanks for your partnership with us!

"The harvest is great but the laborers are few."

