

A Work In Progress

Do you think you are there yet? Do you know all that you need to know? Have you done all that you need to do? If the answer to either of these questions, is yes, or even mostly yes, then you are not there yet.

We are all a work in progress, and God is doing the working. He is shaping, inviting, leading, and inspiring us to become the people he has made us to be.

My hope today is that we can wake up and realize that there is no time to waste, and that every moment is filled with opportunity. God has an endless supply of miracles, and can do anything. He is asking us to go along for the ride.

For instance, Eleanor Roosevelt, a first lady of years ago, wrote, "Today is the oldest you've ever been, and the youngest you'll ever be again."

Think about it. When we realize that huge truth, we have a new perspective on past, present, and future. We have wisdom and years to do what is before us, and the greatest strength to do something powerful right now.

The old hymn says that time is like an ever rolling stream. Sometimes it's like a little trickle. Often it's like a roaring river, with power and speed we cannot stop.

But today is the chance to start something new. Ellen Degeneres says, in a way that only she can, "My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was sixty. She's ninety-seven now, and we don't know where the heck she is."

The point, down deep in there somewhere, is that we are never too old to have new beginnings. We don't have to be stuck in a rut formed by the rapid passing of days, weeks, months, and years. We can start something, become something, accomplish something good this very day, and God will bless us and others for it.

Paul the Apostle writes to Christians everywhere, and therefore to us. "For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." ~ Philippians 1:6

Yes, we are indeed a work in process, and that work of making things new, of doing good works, goes on till the end of time and beyond. Some cannot write until they reach a certain age. Some cannot know certain things until they have become older. Age is irrelevant in God's kingdom. In fact, if one looks at the scriptures, something the greatest things in people's lives did not happen until they were well past retirement in today's standards. "Age is not important unless you're a cheese." ~Actress Helen Hayes

And if we happen to be cheese, we only get better with age!

Try thinking about the same things in a different way. Turn around, or look from the other side, and see if you can see them better, or more completely.

"Won't you come into the garden? I would like my roses to see you." ~ Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Seeing the roses is a little different than being seen by the roses. It changes the order of importance, and sometimes being seen as less important than a flower is not all bad.

Where are you in age? Are you a young know-it-all? Perhaps you are a know-it-all at an advanced age still, which certainly requires a change.

Are you approaching middle age? Are you “over the hill?” Oscar Wilde had some thoughts about this. “The old believe everything, the middle-aged suspect everything, the young know everything.”

The trick, or the blessing, dear reader, is to climb out of whatever place in which you are stuck and see or do something new.

Hosea Ballou put it this way. “Forty is the old age of youth, fifty is the youth of old age. A new perspective for wherever we are is essential for the work in progress whom God is continually re-creating and improving.

So realize, and celebrate, that you are indeed a work in progress. God has much more to do in and through us. As someone with deep wisdom once said, “God is not finished with me yet.” Blessings and challenges, celebrations and difficulties, they are all the same. They are carving us into the precious work of art God is making every day.

“You are an unfinished work in progress,” writes Karen Salmansohn. “One of the good things about life’s challenges: You get to find out you are capable of being far more than you ever thought possible.”

And that is why,” God says, “we are not discouraged. Though outwardly we are wearing out, inwardly we are renewed day by day. Our suffering is light and temporary and is producing for us an eternal glory that is greater than anything we can imagine.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-17