

**What gives your life
meaning?**

Ecclesiastes

What gives your life meaning?

- *Recognize that God is in control, and you can't manipulate the future.*
- *Recognize that the world is broken, and you can't fix it—only God can.*
- *Recognize that you are going to die and stand before God.*
- *So live for God and receive his gifts with thankful joy.*

The Main Point of Ecclesiastes 11:7–12:7

Young people, receive daily joys from the hand of God (11:7–10), fully recognizing that one day you will die and stand before your Creator to be judged for how you lived (12:1–7).

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- Ecclesiastes 2:24–26
- Ecclesiastes 3:12–14, 22
- Ecclesiastes 5:18–20
- Ecclesiastes 8:15
- Ecclesiastes 9:7–10

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How? Cultivate a strong habit of prayer. As Calvin taught, prayer keeps your heart:

- focused on God as your kind provider,
- pure before God through confession,
- more delighted and joyful in God, &
- expectant of God's help.

How do I live wisely before God, especially when I'm young?

1. Continually rejoice in God's gifts to you (11:7–10).
2. Continually live in the awareness of your Creator God (12:1–7).

SOLOMON'S DESCRIPTION OF OLD AGE

	Description	Explanation: Old age is a time of...
1	“in the day when the keepers of the house tremble”	Trembling hands
2	“and the strong men are bent”	Hunched back
3	“and the grinders cease because they are few”	Few teeth
4	“and those who look through the windows are dimmed”	Poor eyesight
5	“and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—”	Poor hearing

SOLOMON'S DESCRIPTION OF OLD AGE (*CONTINUED*)

	Description	Explanation: Old age is a time of...
6	“they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors in the way”	Constant fears
7	“the almond tree blossoms”	White hair
8	“the grasshopper drags itself along”	Awkward movement
9	“and desire fails”	Sexual impotence

Conclusion:

Old age isn't all bad.

- Abraham died in “good old age” (Genesis 15:15).
- Old age is a time to tell the next generation of God’s goodness (Psalm 71).
- Gray hair is generally honorable and beautiful (Proverbs 16:31; 20:29).
- Long life should be valued but not idolized (Proverbs 3:16; 1 Kings 3:11).
- Aging is often a tool that God uses to make us wise (Ecclesiastes 12).