

SPIRITUAL SENILITY
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Introduction: It is easy for a Christian, who has known the Lord a long time, to experience some of the same things in his or her spiritual life as they do in their physical life.

1. DEFINING SPIRITUAL SENILITY

A. Senility: is a Latin word brought into the French language which means: "old man." In English it means "relating to, exhibiting, or characteristics of old age."

B. Spiritual Senility: means "exhibiting a loss of spiritual qualities associated with spiritual maturity." Christians who once had been progressing toward maturity had now regressed back into a form of a second spiritual childhood.

2. INSIGHTS INTO SPIRITUAL SENILITY

A. Spiritual maturity is not a matter of age, but rather of attitudes and actions.

B. Spiritual senility is not confined to old age, but to relationships with the Truth of the Word and the Holy Spirit.

C. Spiritual regression is a threat to all Christians because it happens slowly and does not have to be conscious and deliberate.

D. Spiritual immaturity happens when we neglect the spiritual quality of the inner life.

3. DIAGNOSING SPIRITUAL SENILITY

A. When the ability to learn becomes sluggish or harder than in the past.

B. When spiritual sensitivity once had toward sin has diminished.

C. When responses to spiritual challenges become sluggish or lethargic.

D. When one is too busy or lazy to compare their life with the Word of God.

E. When spiritual appetite for the Word of God is gone.

F. When your ability to teach or communicate God's Word to others has stopped.

G. When your desire is only for the milk of the Word and you dislike deeper things.

H. When pious phrases become a cloak for mental and spiritual laziness.

I. When you try to cover up regression or try to appear as though all is well.

4. CHANGING SPIRITUAL SENILITY

A. Admission of your spiritual regression.

- B. Cleansing of sin that caused the regression.
- C. Renewing your relationship with Christ.
- D. Develop your sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's lead.
- E. Increase your appetite for the deeper things of the Word of God.
- F. Apply the truths of God's Word to your daily life.
- G. Communicate the truths you have learned from God's Word with others.
- H. Use the truths of God's Word to discern good from evil.

5. PREVENTING SPIRITUAL SENILITY

- A. Remember you lose what you do not use.
- B. Realize you have an active part in the maintenance and growth of your spiritual life.
- C. Allow others to challenge you in your spiritual life.
- D. Accept the advice and evaluation from others who are spiritually mature.
- E. Be aware that spiritual regression happens slowly, unconsciously, and unintentionally.

Conclusion: Help keep yourself fresh spiritually and not allow spiritual senility to effect your life in the church.