

# *A Prayer for Life*

What's a good philosophy about living, in general, and growing older, in particular? There are many, because life and the pursuit of happiness are individual matters.

A friend shared with me a prayer he discovered that should have universal application. Its author is unknown to me, but pay attention to its messages:

*Dear Lord:*

*Thou knowest better than I that I am growing older, and will some day be old.*

*Keep me from getting loquacious, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject, and on every occasion.*

*Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs.*

*Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.*

*With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.*

*Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details.*

*Give me wings to get to the point.*

*Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.*

*I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me endure them with patience.*

*Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.*

*Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint – some of them are hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.*

*Keep me where I can extract all possible out of life. There are so many funny things in life, and I don't want to miss any of them.*

*Amen.*

Is this a prayer with application to someone you know?

Or maybe that someone is you.

And finally, it certainly is a wake-up call for me!

– Beecher Hunter