

An Old Farmer's Wisdom

Chuck Swindoll is a Christian pastor, author, educator and radio preacher. He founded *Insight for Living*, headquartered in Plano, Texas, which airs a radio program of the same name on more than 2,000 stations around the world in 15 languages. He is currently the senior pastor of Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas.



In his book, *The Finishing Touch*, he tells about a man he met one Thanksgiving: “With a grin and a twinkle, he whipped out his hand. It was a hand you could strike a match on, toughened by decades of rugged toil. ‘You look like a man who enjoys life. What do you do for a living?’ I asked.

“‘Me? Well, I’m a farmer from back in the Midwest,’ he said. He then told me about his plans for traveling on his own through California. ‘What did you do last week?’

I asked. His answer stunned me. ‘Last week I finished harvesting 90,000 bushels of corn,’ he said with a smile.

“I then blurted out, ‘Ninety thousand! How old are you, my friend?’ He didn’t seem at all hesitant or embarrassed by my question. ‘I’m just a couple of months shy o’ 90.’ He laughed again as I shook my head.

“He had lived through four wars, the Great Depression, 16 presidents, 90 Midwest winters, who knows how many personal hardships, and he was still taking life by the throat. I had to ask him the secret of his long and productive life. ‘Hard work and integrity’ was his quick reply.

“As we parted company,” Swindoll said, “he looked back over his shoulder and added, ‘Don’t take it easy, young feller. Stay at it!’”

Not only is the old farmer’s advice important for living long, but it is wisdom for living well. And hard work and integrity earn the respect and appreciation of family, friends and an entire community.

– Beecher Hunter