

Years from now, it's going to be interesting to view all of these digital pictures that we're taking these days. We're used to seeing old, faded pictures from years gone by. Time and the elements age pictures printed from film negatives, and we've all seen old, fuzzy images from our parents' and grandparents' scrapbooks.

No more. With digital images saved to computer files, a picture today is going to look just as sharp and vibrant fifty years from now, if God lets the world spin that long and lets us live that long. How strange it will be printing out clear pictures of our youthful (or at least less old) selves when we're old and gray to show the youngsters in 2030 or 2050 that, yes, we once were young, too!

Of course, we won't really BE young again. That can't happen - you can't reverse the aging process.

But God can. And God promises to do just that. The psalm writer David says that God blesses you so that "your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (103:5b). Someday we will be made so young, healthy and strong that our energy levels will make us feel like majestic eagles, able to fly all day.

And even though we won't completely be made "young" again until we reach heaven, even now the power God gives us through his Word can help us feel young and energetic. The apostle Paul writes, "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (II Cor. 4:16b). This renewal, Paul goes on to explain, is based on what God promises us in his Word - the sure hope of eternal glory.

Creaking in the bones, wrinkles on the face - these are bound to come to all of us who live past a certain age. But don't let these outward signs of aging make you feel old. You are a new creation. Even now, God is renewing and transforming your mind and spirit. And God today would like to show you a picture of you in your youth. A picture not of your past but of your future. A picture of what living with him in heaven will be like.

Prayer: Dear Father, when you created this world it was perfect. Sin ruined that perfect state, and my own body is proof. I get sick, sometimes I feel weak, and I don't have the strength I had when I was younger. But your Son changed all that when he died for me. Thank you that I can look forward to living with you in eternal youth and serving you forever in boundless energy. Guide my thoughts and actions while I look forward to that day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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