

**So, You're Retired... Your Ministry Has Just Begun**  
**September 6, 2019**

So, you say you have retired. You have spent many years in a career that helped you raise a family. You have watched your children become adults and now raising their own family. Maybe you have grandchildren and you are looking forward to spending quality time with them. Maybe you and your wife are thinking about taking some nice trips around the country or throughout the world.

You deserve it. You have worked hard, long hours, odd shifts, when you were sick, maybe injured. You may have commuted many miles, as I did; hundreds of miles round-trip. You recall trying to stay awake while you drive home in the morning after working all night, sometimes not remembering those last ten miles. Now you say it is time to slow down and relax. I get it.

Unfortunately, many men who retire from their career are also retire from church. I don't mean they are not attending church anymore; they may still be faithfully attending. They may still teach Sunday School or get together with other men and to do mission activities periodically. But in my travels, I hear retired men proclaim that it is time for the younger generations to take up the mantle and begin leading the church.

Again, I get it. We do need to hand the mantle of leadership over to the next generation at some point. But have we prepared them for leadership spiritually, and are we willing to continue discipling and mentoring them? As retirees we may not be in positions of visible leadership anymore, but we still need to take young men under our wings, so to speak, to encourage and continue to help them grow spiritually.

Think about it, men of the Boomer Generation, we are retiring from our careers in our 60s and that is 20 years younger than when Moses was just starting his ministry. Exodus 7:7 tells us;

*Moses was eighty years* old and Aaron eighty -three when they spoke to Pharaoh (Exodus 7:7).

In Joshua 14:10, Joshua was talking to his people and made this statement;

As you see, the LORD has kept me alive these forty-five years as he promised, since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel was journeying in the wilderness. *Here I am today, eighty-five years old.*

Joshua had just completed leading his people into the Promised Land and had fought many battles. Now he was leading them as they divide the land for each of the tribes.

Retired men, we have so much knowledge stored away in our brains and have learned so much in life as we have grown in the Lord. I want to encourage you to let younger men know that you are available to share that knowledge through discipling and mentoring.

I encourage you to start a ministry in your church for retired men to sign up as a discipler and mentor. One of the joys I have had was the privilege of discipling a college student who reached out to me. Watch how God will use you in these years. You will be amazed.

You may be retired from a career or maybe thinking about it. But remember, God is NOT done with you yet. As long as He allows you to walk on this planet, He still has a mission for you. Give strong consideration to disciple and mentor the younger generation. I will be glad to help you start.

Together in the challenge and adventure to disciple men - Mike