**Opening Scripture**

*Psalm 103:1-5 NASBS*

*[1] Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. [2] Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; [3] Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; [4] Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; [5] Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*

**Communion**

*Leviticus 17:11 NLT*

*[11] for the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the LORD. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.*

**You Are Built To Last**

Intro: Whenever we make a purchase we expect what we paid for to last. Oftentimes we are willing to pay more for a product that comes with a 15 or 25 year warranty or better yet a lifetime guarantee. It feels good to know that once you make a purchase, it will last for the long haul. In this message I endeavor to remind some of you and prove to others that as a follower of Jesus Christ that You Are Built To Last.

**Point One: Just Because You’re Seasoned Doesn’t Mean You’re Finished**

The world will tell you that once you turn 55, it's downhill from there. It’s time to make sure your insurance is paid up, your AARP application is prepared, and your cabinet is stocked with Geritol. However, God has a different perspective on this and if make the decision to agree with Him instead of the world’s opinion of you, you can live a life full of energy and fulfillment well into your later years.

Here are some examples;

Set up Gen. 18 God’s messengers give God’s promise that Sarah will bear a son.

*Genesis 18:9-15 NASBS*

*[9] Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "There, in the tent." [10] He said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him. [11] Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. [12] Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" [13] And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?' [14] Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." [15] Sarah denied it however, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh."*

*Genesis 21:1-7 NASBS*

*[1] Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised. [2] So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. [3] Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac. [4] Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. [5] Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. [6] Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." [7] And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."*

(Expound on God’s faithfulness in spite of Abraham’s age...side note Abraham was 86 when he had Ishamel and this represented Abraham and Sarah trying to fulfill the will of God in the strength of their own natural ability, thus this serves as further evidence that age does not have to be a hindrance)

*Deuteronomy 34:7 NLT*

*[7] Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was clear, and he was as strong as ever.*

(Expound on God’s work through Moses...His ministry really didn’t launch until he was 80, for this is how old He was when he spoke to Pharaoh)

*Joshua 14:10-11 NASBS*

*[10] Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. [11] I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in.*

(Expound on God’s willingness to use you in spite of your natural age and the world’s need for your presence and prayers)

**So what is the key to unlocking the fountain of youth…?**

*Matthew 7:24-27 NASBS*

*[24] "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. [25] And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. [26] Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. [27] The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-and great was its fall."*

**Point Two: Trust In God’s Word Above All Else**

All the men identified earlier in the message were men who trusted in God’s Word above what they could see in the natural.

Make Appeal for those listening to open their hearts to believe God for more...He is not done with you