

## April 28, 2020~ Praying for God's Children Now Grown Old and Their Caregivers~

**“Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” John 21:18**

Merciful God, you never leave or forsake you children. Your love for a newborn baby is no greater than your love for that baby's grandparents or great grandparents. Surely the wisdom about Jesus's saving grace is the sweetest gift grown up people share with their children and grandchildren. The examples of aged and faithful lives who always did and still do worship and serve you must be precious in your sight, Father God. Your children now grown old have suffered, and many have left this life on earth too soon because they were infected in care facilities that have become the epicenter of this Covid 19 pandemic.

We lift up our prayers, Lord God, not to condemn the compassionate caregivers with little or no personal protection equipment. They were at first forgotten in the rapid spread and unprecedented infection of elderly residents in assisted living, memory care, rehabilitation, and long term nursing care facilities. Our hearts ache knowing that over 10,000 residents, patients and caregivers have succumbed to the coronavirus infection that spread silently through senior care homes across America. Those who lost loved ones tried to get attention, but for reasons we don't understand, their family members were not given the help they desperately needed. The courageous people you chose to take care of those who could no longer care for themselves continued working in rooms; lifting, turning, bathing, and feeding their precious patients. Their hands that cleaned the wrinkled face or held the fragile hand were your hands, God. Many who became family to their patients with no family risked and lost their lives. Those caregivers had families, too. We pray for peace and assurance that families who lost both caregiving and cared for loved ones will be comforted and wrapped in your love. We rejoice knowing that your unselfish and compassionate children are now safe with their patients and you in eternal life.

Lord, our human spirits cannot understand the tragic, staggering statistics of the elderly who suffered a fate they did not and still do not deserve. We cannot rewrite the procedures that failed elderly Americans in senior living and care facilities, but surely we can pray that county, state, and federal licensing and inspecting agencies are changing this very minute the management of infected patients and the protection of other residents and their caregivers. We pray for responsible owners and managers to be obedient to regulations that must surely be implanted immediately.

We pray for your children now grown old and their caregivers, Gracious God.

~~Convict the hearts and minds of those who own and manage all senior living, memory, and skilled nursing care facilities. Change the restriction of supplies and fill the supply rooms with an abundance of caregiver personal protection equipment and resident and patient masks.

~~Make places in hospitals for the patients from long term care who are suffering and need doctors, nurses, intensive care, and equipment that care facilities cannot provide.

~~Surround those who have not been infected with a supernatural hedge of protection. Hear my prayers for for

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(Say the names of those you know are at high risk of infection.)

~~Use the Holy Spirit in your children who have now grown old to calm anxious hearts and fearful minds. Be close to each and every lonely and confused senior citizen who feels trapped now in a place that once provided safe shelter and needed care. Comfort them with your presence and reveal your promises in your true and holy Word. Use chaplains and caregivers to share the peace of your promises.

~~Give family members who cannot enter the buildings a strong desire to call the ones they love but cannot see face to face. Help work out the details of personal visits through windows and virtual visits on devices.

~~Comfort those suffering severe symptoms of the virus and control critical conditions from weakened immunity and underlying medical conditions. Hear my prayers for

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(Pray for those you know or may know of by name.)

~~Holy Spirit, keep rehab and memory care patients and this generation of high risk people who depend on care and safety outside the homes they once loved close to our hearts and in our frequent prayers.

***“Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.”  
Leviticus 19:32***

You are the Lord, and we lift up our prayers in the name of Jesus and cry out for your intervention in the care, provisions, protection, and encouragement of your children now grown old and your dedicated and compassionate people who care for them when they cannot care for themselves. Change guidelines and budgets and convict hearts, Powerful God, to provide a peaceful and safe place for as long as these older children may live on this side of heaven. Amen