

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

73 “*Learn to manage deterioration*”

As I approached my 70th birthday, I decided it was time for me to visit with someone who had already lived through some of the years up ahead. I called a man I respected who was about 10 years my senior and we set the date.

I asked one of our teenage grandsons to go along, for the fellowship and also for what he might learn. I said, “Come on and you can learn what you need to know for your 70s.” I had to smile at his honest reply, “But grandpa, I don’t think I’ll remember!”

We flew down to our host’s city and met with him for two or three hours. He gave me several bits of advice that were helpful, including the admonition to concentrate on the core items of life: Health, Wealth, Relationships and Usefulness.

But the most impactful advice was his suggestion, “***Learn to manage deterioration***”. He pointed out that all our younger years have been spent managing *growth* in our families, our finances, our businesses, our churches and other institutions. It has been exciting to expand. Now we must learn the difficult art of *managing deterioration*.

As we concluded our talk, my 80+ year old mentor wrote his telephone number on a piece of paper, handed it to my grandson and said, “Call me in 20 years and tell me how you’re doing.” Then he thought a moment and said, “Make that 10 years!”

Isn’t it amazing how deeply we can be impacted for life by a two or three hour conversation with a wise older person!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin