

Jimmy Carter, 95, Provides an Example

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Former President Jimmy Carter was recently in the news. At age 95, he had surgery to relieve pressure from his brain after several recent falls. First reports indicate the surgery went well.

Since leaving the White House, the former president has taught Sunday School on a regular basis. Even now, despite his weakened health, he still schedules himself for teaching twice a month. At 95, most of us wouldn't be so ambitious.

Additionally, Jimmy Carter has been very committed to the work of Habitat for Humanity. When physically able, he still goes to project sites to swing a hammer, lend his name, and encourage volunteers.

Regardless of political affiliations, Jimmy Carter's continued ministry is remarkable and is an example we all should follow. I have never been able to find any commands or examples in the Bible about retirement. The only passage speaking to retirement is, "And the LORD said to Moses, 'This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years of age or older shall enter to perform the service in the work at the Tent of Meeting. But at the age of fifty, they must retire from performing the work and no longer serve. After that, they may assist their brothers in fulfilling their duties at the Tent of Meeting, but they themselves are not to do the work.'" (Numbers 8:23-26, ESV)

The Scripture points out that after fifty, they were to continue assisting their brothers in doing other work. Scripture supports what I see former President Carter modeling, that our duties or circumstances may change; but each of us is still called to serve until the day the Lord calls us home.