Harvard Study on Adult Development – George E. Vaillant's Questions

- 1. What is the most important thing that makes you want to get out of bed in the morning?
- 2. What would you do differently if you had to live your life over again?
- 3. What will be your greatest legacy?
- 4. What was your greatest success?
- 5. What was stimulating or interesting about your career?
- 6. What is your most satisfying activity?
- 7. How would you rate your fitness for your work / career?
- 8. What was the most responsible job you have held?
- 9. What holds/held your marriage together?
- 10. How do you and your spouse depend on each other?
- 11. How do you and your spouse collaborate?
- 12. How do you and your spouse fight?
- 13. What is most special about your spouse?
- 14. What originally drew you and your spouse together?
- 15. What have you learned from your children?
- 16. What would you most like to give your children?
- 17. Give a sketch of the person you most admire.
- 18. Describe your oldest friend. Your closest friend.
- 19. List 5 people now close to you that were not close 10 years age.

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- 20. What qualities do you look for in a wise person?
- 21. What are the characteristics of someone who has aged well?
- 22. What is your most current important activity?
- 23. What is the most annoying aspect of growing old?
- 24. What is your definition/prescription for successful aging?
- 25. Whom would you feel the freest to inconvenience; to help you?
- 26. Who do you turn to in unhappiness?
- 27. When was the happiest period of your life? The unhappiest?
- 28. What heavy blows have hit you the hardest?
- 29. When were you best friends with your parents?
- 30. Was your intelligence a blessing or a burden?
- 31. Do you believe that society has given you a fair chance to achieve your potential?
- 32. When was your family life the happiest?
- 33. What's the most important thing you do during your retirement?
- 34. What did you do the first 6 weeks of retirement?
- 35. What activities have been important since retirement?
- 36. What's the best part of retirement? The worst part?
- 37. How have you changed in equanimity since age 40?
- 38. What is your dominant mood for the past 6 months?
- 39. What book has touched you?
- 40. Describe any shifts in your religious beliefs over time.