

# **SERVING THE LORD IN YOUR YOUTH**

*Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth*

*(Ecclesiastes 12:1a).*

## **Importance of serving the Lord in your youth**

Serving the Lord during our youth is important because, it is the right period of our lives that we have both the physical and mental strength. During this period, we have good memory. It is the time when we can memorize a lot of content in our minds.

In the last 2 years, our lecturer taught us that when a child is born, the brain is *tabula rasa* meaning that it is empty. It starts to fill gradually as it develops. At the adolescent stage is when the mental activity is great. At this stage in life, one is able to comprehend a lot of things. This is when the character can be changed easily.

So, why the scripture does says that we should remember our Creator when we are young. The answer is that we are likely to remember and serve our creator while young.

Also, we can compare the youthful life as the first fruits of our lives. in line with that, He requires the first fruits but not leftovers. Your old age is compared to leftovers because you are a spent force. At old age most people have poor judgment and have the character of conservatism. Old people fear change at all costs. They have valid excuses for their decisions.

Youth is the brief moment in ones life. It is precious. A youth can decide to make his entire life miserable or valuable in the future. The youthful time should be spent in the best way possible which God approves.

My friends life is terminal. Dear youth, our lives have no guarantee. You and I have today to serve our Lord. Tomorrow is not yours.

Today we have the opportunity to form our Habit pattern. It will be difficult to form a habit pattern when old. Please, read the verse

*Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them"; 2 before the sun, the light, the moon, and the stars are darkened, and clouds return after the rain; 3 in the day that the watchmen of the house tremble, and mighty men stoop, the grinding ones stand idle because they are few, and those who look through windows grow dim; 4 and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one will arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of song will sing softly. (Ecclesiastes 12:1-4).*

The above scriptures tells that the dark days are the days when we are old. At this time, our eyesight will be dimmed. As well our mental activity will be dimmed.

Old people have Stooped posture. Yes, at one time they were mighty but now their knees have buckled. They are no longer tall and straight.

The few remaining teeth do not grind, neither do they chew as before. Their eyesight grows dim. They become hard of hearing, their face sag and find it difficult to sleep. their sleep is easily interrupted.

Dear youth, I do not want to threaten your of old age. I only want you to imagine this condition. Do you belief you can serve the Lord best?

Sickness is another factor that causes a lot of pain. While in sick bed it is not easy to remember and serve your God. At that moment you can only murmur a brief prayer for quick recovery. I urge the reader to serve the Lord while he is well. When he has a youthful vigor before the dark days come upon him or her.

### **Factors of success**

There could be many factors that facilitate our success in spiritual matters and in life. But the prime factor is the total dependence upon the Lord. God is not human, He has never failed those who depend upon Him and His promises. When am tempted and falls, God reminds me that am weak and mortal. Therefore He requires me to go to Him as a kind and loving Father for forgiveness and Guidance.

God teachers us that if we use our time, strength and talents well, we shall succeed in our ways. Faithfulness and claiming His promises in faith will yield great success in our youth life.

Early reformers began their work of reform while young. Martin Luther was influential due to his intellectual ability in his college. God used him as a young man to strike the root of evils in the Pagan Rome. He

was not a novice. God will as well use young people who are despised in the church organizations to complete the work of the Great Reform. By the working of the Holy Spirit, young people will arise to Declare the sins of Babylon, and the backsliding of the God's people.

Those who have utilized their youthful life in seeking the Lord, will as well be used in by God to do his Great work for the salvation of mankind.

Thank our Lord that among us we have the old who have served the Lord from the time they were young. We call them the pioneers of our faith. May we be inspired by their good deeds in entreating us to remain trusting the Lord.

### **Dangers young people face in this period of life**

As a youth, you easily learn evil ways. you can be swayed by fashionable styles that are currently flooding the earth. The movies we watch, and the music we hear excites our imagination as a result we try to imitate all that pleases our desires.

Compare our lives with that of Samson. He loved entertainment; consequently he was lured to temptations. Likewise, refer the story of the prodigal son.

*"This younger son had become weary of the restraint of his father's house. He thought that his liberty was restricted. His father's love and care for him were misinterpreted, and he determined to follow the dictates of his own inclination.*

*The youth acknowledges no obligation to his father, and expresses no gratitude; yet he claims the privilege of a child in sharing his father's goods. The inheritance that would fall to him at his father's death he desires to receive now. He is bent on present enjoyment, and cares not for the future.*

*Having obtained his patrimony, he goes into "a far country," away from his father's home. With money in plenty, and liberty to do as he likes, he flatters himself that the desire of his heart is reached. There is no one to say, Do not do this, for it will be an injury to yourself; or, Do this, because it is right. Evil companions help him to plunge ever deeper into sin, and he wastes his "substance with riotous living."*

*The Bible tells of men who "professing themselves to be wise" "became fools" (Rom. 1:22); and this is the history of the young man of the parable. The wealth which he has selfishly claimed from his father he squanders upon harlots. The treasure of his young manhood is wasted. Christ Object Lessons p. 200.*

*The precious years of life, the strength of intellect, the bright visions of youth, the spiritual aspirations--all are consumed in the fires of lust.*

*A great famine arises, he begins to be in want, and he joins himself to a citizen of the country, who sends him into the field to feed swine. To a Jew this was the most menial and degrading of employments. The youth who has boasted of his liberty, now finds himself a slave. He is in the worst of bondage--"holden with the cords of his sins." (Prov. 5:22.) The glitter and tinsel that enticed him have disappeared, and he feels the burden of his chain. Sitting upon the ground in that desolate and famine-stricken land, with no companions but the swine, he is fain to fill himself with the husks on which the beasts are fed. Of the gay companions who flocked about him in his prosperous days and ate and drank at his expense, there is not one left to befriend him. Where now is his riotous joy? Stilling his conscience, benumbing his sensibilities, he thought himself happy; but now, with money spent, with hunger unsatisfied, with pride humbled, with his moral nature dwarfed, with his will weak and untrustworthy, with his finer feelings seemingly dead, he is the most wretched of mortals. "*

*Dear youth do not squander the precious years, the powers of mind and heart and soul. The man, who separates from God that he may serve himself, is the slave of mammon.*

*"If you have chosen such a life, you know that you are spending money for that which is not bread, and labor for that which satisfied not. There come to you hours when you realize your degradation. Alone in the far country you feel your misery, and in despair you cry, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Rom. 7:24. It is the statement of a universal truth which is contained in the prophet's words, "Cursed be the man that trusted in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departed from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited." Jer. 17:5, 6. COL p. 202.*

*When he danced and feasted with his wild companions, little did he think of the shadow that had fallen on his home. And now as with weary and painful steps he pursues the homeward way, he knows not that one is watching for his return. But while he is yet "a great way off" the father discerns his form. Love is of quick sight. Not even the degradation of the years of sin can conceal the son from the father's eyes. He "had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck" in a long, clinging, tender embrace.*

*The father will permit no contemptuous eye to mock at his son's misery and tatters. He takes from his own shoulders the broad, rich mantle, and wraps it around the son's wasted form, and the youth sobs out his repentance, saying, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." The father holds him close to his side, and brings him home. No opportunity is*

*given him to ask a servant's place. He is a son, who shall be honored with the best the house affords, and whom the waiting men and women shall respect and serve.*

*The father said to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry." Col 203-5*

## **Let us return**

Life without God is a vacuum. It is a Hollow life. It satisfies nothing. We will try to stray from His love but while away from Him we shall suffer and lead a miserable life. Let's return to Him Like the prodigal son and claim His promise "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:7.

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