

THE CHRISTIAN TEEN/YOUTH

3. While seeking God (Josiah)

...Four years later he began to destroy the pagan places of worship, the symbol of the goddess Asherah, and all the other idols. 2 Chron. 34:3

Josiah began to have understanding of his destiny from childhood, since that was when he became king of his land. At age sixteen, he began to chase after the knowledge of God with which David his father succeeded. And at the age of twenty, he began to put into practice those truths about the will of God that he had been trained with for four years. Josiah committed his life to seeking God, learning the Laws of God for Israel, in order for him to be acquainted with them, and as a young one with the knowledge of his purpose, that he might know how to focus his attention on the word of God for him in life and destiny.

Seeking God is usually a means to an end: that one would find God, and keep finding out more about him; but it actually remains an endless pursuit after God. Those who truly find God testify of how much of him there've not known. Paul said, **"All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death."** (Phil. 3:10).

The second purpose behind the calling of the Disciples of Christ was for him to send them out to do exploit. They were called primarily to seek him and be with him, after which he would also send them out (Mk 3:13-14).

Josiah, after about four years of seeking and learning of God from the elderly ones became stronger and firm in the knowledge of God's will for Judah – how they ought to coordinate themselves in obedience to the Lord. He also began to remove the things, i.e. the idols that he found on the land because according to what truths of God he had learnt for four years, no idol should be found in Judah.

Jesus too trained and equipped his disciples for about three years and they were good to go and serve his purpose.

After seeking God, you are supposed to begin to do the needful, practically remove from your life and other places things that are against the truths you have so learnt of God.

Put to death in your life: sin, bad habits, addictions and whatsoever you do not see as part of Christ's nature while seeking him.

Knowledge is power. What you **know** is the **power** you have to **exert influence** anywhere. The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits (Dan. 11:32). As a Christian teenager, the true definition of your purpose here on earth surrounds the reason for your salvation. You are made wise to make others wise. You are made a friend of God to give you the right to make others friends of God too (2 Cor. 5:17-18). God expects you to tell others what he tells or reveals to you about himself in your process of seeking him, this is why Jesus calls believers, 'his witnesses' (Acts 1:8). The power behind your personal conviction of God's person and reality is the instrument with which your testimony about Christ will yield the expected result.

Ezra committed his heart to seeking God devotedly; to obeying the things he discovered and made commitments to teaching the truths to the Jews also. **That means, what you discover about God must first be practiced by you, before you can teach it to others.**

The **power of your personal convictions** lies beneath the degree to which you have sought God personally. Consequently, the power for you to exert any of such change in an environment or on a person, a change *which must have first been seen taking place in your own life* while you were seeking God, also lies beneath the degree to which you have allowed your life to be changed by the truths you encounter.

The many idols in the land and environment you live in ought to be confronted in the power of the Spirit of the Lord, through the truths that you encounter, and which changes you. As a Christian teenager, God wants you to address idols, such as: examination malpractice, ungodly video clips, films and movie series, pornography, pre-marital sex and abortion, cultism, internet fraud, gossip of anyone, fornication among your peers and others, ungodly relationships and involvement in all worldly (not secular) gatherings. The lust of the eyes which leads many teenagers/youths like you into all manner of immoral acts, just to become famous, loud, appear money-full, and appear great outside God. These and the likes have led many teens and youths to their grave before the time God plans for them.

Today, make up your mind, like Josiah, that as you learn of God's will for your own life, the church and the world we live in, you will not continue to fold your hands and watch things remain fallen apart. **Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify God for your good life (Matt. 5:14-16).** Like Jesus, go about doing good (Acts 10:38), because that was the reason why God re-created you [anew] in Christ, that you may walk in the exact life and likeness of Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:10). You are now a Christian teenager for the purpose of doing the good works that please God, because it makes God glad. Don't be saved for nothing! You have been seeking God, it is time for you to arise and begin to destroy the prevailing evils on our land, your immediate family, from the church to every street of the community in which you live. Don't seek God for nothing. Go out there and tell some sinner that Jesus calls them unto eternal salvation. Pray for them, and give them Christian materials that help you grow spiritually (if they are willing to accept it from you).