

THE CHRISTIAN TEEN/YOUTH

8. Seeking God early

Josiah was eight years old when he became king of Judah, and he ruled in Jerusalem for thirty-one years. He did what was pleasing to the LORD; he followed the example of his ancestor King David, strictly obeying all the laws of God. In the eighth year that Josiah was still very young, he began to worship the God of his ancestor King David. Four years later he began to destroy the pagan places of worship, the symbol of the goddess Asherah, and all the other idols. 2 Chronicles 34:3 GNB

A major division of that verse which conveys critical meaning to your life as a young lady newly born into the family of God is:

- ...In the eighth year **that Josiah was still very young**, he began to worship the God of his ancestor King David...GNB
...When he had been king for eight years – **he was still only a teenager – he began to seek the God of David his ancestor...**MSB
...And in the eighth year of the realm of his empire, when he was yet a boy, **[that is, sixteen years of age,] he began to seek the God of his father David...**WYCLIFF BIBLE

The best time for you to start seeking God; researching about his person and his will; learning about his character and attributes (i.e. what makes him who he is), his do's and don'ts, likes and hates, blessings and curses, etc. is now.

As for Jesus, it looks like, he discovered himself as a peculiar child of God from childhood and guided him. After the encounter at the temple between him and the doctors of the Jewish Law, and also his parent, he went home and submitted to their training for another eighteen years before ever venturing out.

David also started seeking God from his teenage years until became king in Egypt. Joseph kept on guarding his heart in following the Lord from teenage.

Daniel, Shedrach, Mechach and Abednego were also very young exiles who *had* been seeking God, most probably from their teenage years back in Jerusalem until they were captured into exile in Babylon.

Esther as well was a very young Hebrew devout who worshipped and followed God's will for her life while she grew under Mordecai, most likely as a teenager (Esther 2:7).

Some Bible Scholars and theologians agree that Timothy actually started seeking God from his teenage days (1 Tim. 4:12). This is because of the connotation of the Greek work translated “youth”, the word, “neotes”.

This is the perfect time for you as a teenager to engage God, requesting that he shows you what he has designed you for, it is now! God alone knows the plans he has for you (Jer. 29:11). If you seek him for the revelation of your purpose for your being alive on earth, he’ll definitely show you. He shows to those whose hearts are ready, who come to him, even as teenagers.

Those who are given the knowledge of their purpose early in life run faster.

Jeremiah was probably a teenager too, or a very young person also when God revealed his purpose to him (Jer. 1:4-6).

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; (Isa. 55:6 ESV).

It is a great pity how so many Christian youths in their teenage years follow hard to satisfy the selfish longings of their human desires, when the word of God teaches that believers are not to grant/fulfill the desires of their human nature, but to follow the voice of the Spirit of God in everything.

Hear Paul,

“What I say is this: let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature. For what our human nature wants is opposed to the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do what you want to do” (Gal. 5:16-17).

How to do the right thing at this point is to be led by God himself (Psalm 32:8), because, those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God (Rom. 8:14). If you are one, then let him lead you.

As you learn to follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in every little thing now, you will also know how to hear and understand and follow him in greater matters, such as **in academic choices, choice of a marriage partner, where to work, and which job he has designed and equipped you for, where to live and raise children for his glory, etc.**

The essential task before every Christian teenager is ‘**looking out for God**, and his will in everything (Isa. 55:6). Searching for God is worth living every other thing aside for.

What are those things that keep you away from truly seeking and serving the Lord, devotedly? What are those ungodly habits and addictions that sap your time and energy away, so that you find it boring to pray, fast, meditate on the word of God, enjoy the fellowship of other believers and developing into Christ's full stature of maturity (Eph. 4:13)? It's high time you killed them. Arise and declare the war of the Spirit against them (Eph. 6:10-18). Otherwise, the plan and will of God for your life may not come to pass. Say NO! to them all.

The grace to say NO to their influences have been entrusted unto every believer. **"...God has revealed his grace for the salvation of all people. That grace instructs us to give up ungodly living and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly live in this world,"** (Tit. 2:11-12). **But be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity** (1 Tim. 4:12).

Do not continue to let your involvement in social media activities take you away from seeking God. Sitting before the television set, or seeing videos on YouTube and other socially engaging platforms have been designed for the use of the world, and if any saint must use them, it ought to be with great caution, self-discipline and control, under the guard and guide of the Holy Spirit. Fight against lasciviousness. We must not love the world or anything in it (1 John 2:15-17). Jesus commended Mary, the sister of Martha for choosing the most needful activity for humanity - sitting before the Lord and listening to him teach the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The moment you begin to realize that you are becoming excited about how much you have become preoccupied with the activities of the world, then, remember that, **"...there is only thing worth being concerned about"** (Luke 10:42). Those who choose it have never lost it. Submit yourself unto the lecturing room of Jesus daily, and commit your life to seeking him first and only (Matt. 6:33).