

THE BATTLE OF THE YOUTH

Proverbs 3:13 (KJV)

¹³ *Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*

As a young, wisdom and understanding will establish you for a glorious life

Apostle Paul wrote Timothy words of wisdom that will lead him to accomplish God's plan for his life

LET NO MAN DESPISE THY YOUTH

1 Timothy 4:12 (KJV)

¹² *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

DON'T LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

¹² *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.*

What must you do to prevent people from looking down on you or what must you do to gain respect being a young man?

Is not by impressing them with your job, or your salary, or your car, or your designer clothes, or your education but particularly:

- the way you live,
- the way you behave,
- the way you talk, particularly the way you talk,
- and the way you conduct yourself.

Your life has to be an example to others.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT TO SEE IN A YOUNG MAN'S LIFE?

1 John 2:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

God is expecting to see:

- the strength that he put in the young people for his work
- the word of God abiding in them
- the young people overcome satan and his wicked and deceiving world.

WHAT MUST YOU DO TO MEET GOD'S EXPECTATIONS? - 2 Timothy 2:21-26 (NLT)

4 points must be noticed:

I- Keep yourself pure

2 Timothy 2:21 (NLT)

²¹ *If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.*

2- Run away from youthful lusts and stay away from bad friends

2 Timothy 2:22 (NLT)

²² *Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace.*

Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

3- Don't get involved in foolish arguments that start fights

2 Timothy 2:23-24 (NLT)

²³ *Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights.*

²⁴ *A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.*

4- Be cautious of the devil's trap

2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NLT)

²⁵ *Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.* ²⁶ *Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.*

THE DEEDS OF YOUR YOUTH SHALL BE JUDGED

Ecclesiastes 11:9 (KJV)

⁹ *Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*

MAJOR AREAS WHERE THE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS

I. The first major problem that the young people need to deal with is:

ACCEPT YOURSELF THE WAY THAT GOD MADE YOU

A lot of young people have the problem of self rejection. They are always looking at someone else who appears to be little better:

- May be someone with *better appearance*,
- May be someone from a better family with more resources, and etc... and they say "I wish I would be like that"

The best way to live a frustrated and useless life is to wish you could be like someone else.

- Problem with skin color, hair style, etc...

NIV Translation

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV)

¹¹ *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*

¹² *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

¹³ *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

God has plans for you and had giving you gifts – be content and trust him to bring you to his expected end.

James 1:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness (God doesn't change – He is the same yesterday, today, and forever), neither shadow of turning.

Proverbs 18:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

First, be content with your person. Accept that God did not make a mistake in the way He made you.

There are good looking people who are really proud and look down on others and there are those who are really discouraged because they want to be like the others. Both are useless to God.