MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR YOUTH\*

An old English proverb says:

" \*Make hay while the sun shines"\*.

Meaning: make the most of the opportunities while it last or while you have what it takes to cope with the challenges of life.

Youthfulness is an experience at one stage of life.

It is the prime time or state of greatest vigour or success in everybody's life.

 \*Apparently, youthfulness does not last for long, enjoy it while it last.\*

The bible says:

 \*"Remember now your creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near, of which you will say: "I have no pleasure in them".\*

Ecc 12:1.

Being a youth is different from being a child.

 \*'When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things".\*

1 Cor 13:11.

The youthful years are when you still have much strength, time and vigour in you to do many things.

\*Never despises the ability and the potentials in your youthful days.\*

The bible says:

 \*"It is good for a man that he bears the yoke in his youth".\*

Lam 3:27.

Why? Because a young man still possesses great strength at that stage.

 \*"The glory of the young is their strength; the grey hair is the splendor of the old".\*

Prov 20:29.

The great philosopher: Aristotle, once said:

 \*"Good habits formed at youth make all the difference"\*

The biggest role of every parent comes when your children are growing up to their teen years; like Aristotle said, what habits they take to at those years are what shape their future.

The kind of friends that you keep as a youth goes a long way in determining what you become later in life.

 \*PRAYER FOR PARENTS\*: May our sons in their youth be like well nurtured plants and may our daughters be like pillars calved out to adorn a palace in the name of Jesus🙏🏼🙏🏼🙏🏼.

\*Psalm 144:12\*

Lately, the Holy Spirit brought to my attention,the importance of seeking God early in life.

He took me on a voyage of discovery of the ages of some great bible characters that sought the Lord early in their life time.

King David was \*thirty years old\* when he became king of Isreal, he was far younger than that when he was anointed to be king by Samuel.

 \*"And Saul said to David: you are not able to go against the Philistine to fight him for you are but a youth and he has been a man of war from his youth".\*

1 Samuel 17:33.

When Goliath saw David, the bible says:

 \*"He disdained him, for he was but a youth, Rudy and handsome in appearance".\*

1 Samuel 17:42.

We all know how the battle ended as a result of the presence of God in David.

 \*Joseph was also thirty years old when he was called by Pharaoh to be the Prime Minister in Egypt.\*

Gen 41:46.

The bible refered to Daniel and his friends: Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego as youth;

 \*"Select young men without any physical defects, handsome, showing aptitude to every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand and qualified to serve in the king's palace".\*

Daniel 1:4.

Have you ever wondered the kind of opposition the three Hebrew boys: faced;

 \*However, as young as they were, they maintained their stand in God before the dreaded king.\*

The bible testifies about them:

 \*"As for these four children; God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams".\*

Daniel 1:17.

According to Saint Ambrose a former Bishop of Milan:

\*"A good youth ought to have a fear of God, to be subject to his parents to give honours to his elders, to preserve his purity, he ought not to despise humility, but should love forbearance and modesty. All these are ornaments to youthful years".\*

As parents the onus is on us to ensure our children make the best of their youth by being their guardians and counsellors.

 \*Prov 22:6\*

We are indeed in the last days; all sort of things are happening these days that confirm that.

I still don't get the rationale behind the kind of things that we celebrate in our society today.

I read a story of the young man that scored the highest mark possible at the university of Lagos and as someone that has passed through the university, I felt the young man never got the desired attention that is commensurate to his achievement.

However, the way our state Governments and financial institutions are celebrating the participants of the "big brother" is shameful.

Open sexual immorality is gradually becoming a norm in every society now.

Whether we like it or not, the Christian youths are not left out.

The word of God is clear:

 \*"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you and was given to you by God, you are not your own; you were bought at a price, so glorify God with your body".\*

1 Cor 6:19&20.

Some of our youths do not see anything wrong in engraving tatoo marks on their bodies ;to them it's fashionable.

 \*"You shall not make any cut on your body for the dead or tatoo yourselves:I am the Lord".\*

Lev 19:28.

Without doubt many of us: grown up men and women have done some horrible things in our \*"youth days";\*

Just like the great Yoruba adage say:

translation-

 \*" Let the old come and swear if you have not misbehaved as a youth".\*

Nonetheless, \*what some people did and got away with, some never lived to tell the story.\*

The advice that some of us that have \*"done that and been there"\* should give to youth coming behind is:

 \*"Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace along with those who call the name of the Lord out of a pure heart".\*

2 Tim 2:22.

\*PRAYER\*:

 \*Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me for the sake of your goodness. O Lord\*. 🙏🏼🙏🏼🙏🏼.

Psalm 25:7

In conclusion,

 \*"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith,in purity".\*

1 Tim 4:12.

Every youth should endeavour to \*Keep the word of God close to yourself, meditate on it and above all; live it.\*

Prov 6 :21.

The Psalmist asked:

\*"How can a young man keeps his way pure? By guarding it according to Your words".\*

Psalm 119:9.

Make the most of your youthful days, for Jesus said:

 \*"As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no man can work".\*

John 9:4.

Shalom.

\*JESUS Reigns\*

Signed, Bro Cole