

# WHERE ARE THE YOUTHS



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**JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...**

Never mind, let's begin...

# YOU'RE NOT EVEN A YOUTH

Youthfulness simply means usefulness. But it's amazing how many young people engage more in idleness. I'm compelled to believe that being a youth is not about a particular age range, but submitting to consistent useful engagements. Sometime ago I went to deliver a speech in a conference, and I couldn't but notice that while the youths were seated for the program, their elderly pastor was busy fixing the sound system. I was the guest speaker, but I had to stand up to assist the man. The day you stop being useful, you'd

also stop being youthful. If you're still useful at the age of 120, then you're still a youth. Remember that Abraham was still useful to God at age hundred.

The youth age is a season of unusual strength; even the weakness of a youth should be stronger than David - who killed Goliath. Zech 12:8 says "... The feeble among them shall be as David...".

Jesus had already started His youth at age 13. When His parents came back to Jerusalem to look for Him, He was upset with them and told them that they shouldn't have come to look for Him, because He was doing His Father's business. He was already useful to God at that age. According to scriptures, His custom was to go to the temple daily to read

the scriptures for elders, doctors, lawyers, and different experts. He was useful!

Despise idleness, and embrace usefulness. You cannot be called a youth until you are identified with a useful engagement. At age 13, Jesus already secured a position in the temple. Nobody could debate that position with Him; because He didn't only read the scriptures, He also explained very complex part of them. Such that, doctors and lawyers were amazed at His wisdom.

The reason why we have plenty unemployed young people is simply because they are not useful; useful people always get a job. Joseph was useful to Jacob; he took care of his father's flock. David was useful; he also took care of his father's flock. And at the end, they were both enthroned. Useful people don't

only get a job; they also get enthroned. Usefulness may not pay you today, but it would give you a throne in the future.

I remember how I offered my ICT skill as a volunteer service to a bible school for 3 months. I wasn't getting a monthly pay check like the other staffs, but I was furnishing my usefulness. After that 3 months, God gave me a real job, and greater things began to unfold from there. Before you find a job that pays, do the one that keeps you useful.

## **PROFIT FOLLOWS IMPACT...**

Being useful makes you impactful, and people who impact others naturally enjoy profits. My friend, Deborah Rex, once told me that "People won't give to you because you need,



but because they need". When you begin to meet people's need, then they won't hesitate to meet your needs. When a need arises for me, before I think of who to help me, I quickly think of what I can do to meet that need. And the later has always worked. If you want to be impacted, then sow a seed of impact.

If it feels like you're not making profit, then increase your impact. The same law that governs "giving and receiving" is what governs "impact and profit".

## **IMPACTING YOUR WORLD...**

Impacting your world begins with the discovery of God's word for you. There will be no world to impact without a word in you. God sent a word into Jacob, and that word

lighted upon Israel. World impact requires word implant. Many young people were told that they have very bright futures; but it seemed like the more they reached the future, the darker life became for them. That's because, people may tell you what they see about you, but until you discover what is written for or about you in God's word, then impact is not sure.

Jacob's father had declared great words of prophecy on him; among them was that he would reign over his elder brother, Esau. But as he grew, he feared Esau the more. Just imagine, he feared the things he was destined to rule. We later saw in scriptures that he wrestled with an angel - who in turn spoke into his destiny. It was the word that the angel spoke to him that opened up his destiny. God's word is like the soil that plants all the good things that people say or do to

us. People may say good things to you, but without the word in you, the good things they've said won't manifest.

Abraham was completely useless, even till the age of 75. But God's word came to him saying "Get out of your father's house, and follow me to a place that I will show you". And as he followed, he became the Father of many nations. Again, world impact requires word implant. Until God plants a word inside you, world impact is not sure.

Ezekiel was at the valley of very dry bones. God asked him "son of man, can these bones live?". He didn't hesitate to tell God that "Only You know". The truth is, only God knows what your destiny holds; so instead of trying things, why not sit down and study His word? We later saw that as Ezekiel

prophesied according to God's commandment, those dry bones lived. If it feels like certain things are dead in your life, then it's probably because there is no word in you. Like Ezekiel, fill your heart with God's word, and see how dead situations will be restored right before your eyes.

## **SHORTCUT TO IMPACTING YOUR WORLD...**

There is no shortcut to impacting your world, you have to follow the process. And Joshua 1:8 states the process; it says "this book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night; and you shall observe to do according to all that is written in it, then you will make your ways prosperous, and you shall have good success". In other words; studying, meditating, and doing what the word of God

says will make our ways (careers, businesses, academics, government, relationships, talents, purpose, callings, and so on) prosperous; and that is what is termed as good success or impact.

Trying to make your ways prosperous without following the first 3 processes will never lead to impact. And this is probably why many nations are running a failing system. Prov 4:20-22 clearly tells us that if we want to have the kind of life we expect, then we must attend to God's word. It's only when we find the word that our expectations will not be cut off. It's quite unfortunate that many young Christians don't even know how to open their Bible, let alone, read it. But we should know, the world is waiting for our manifestation. And they'd continue waiting until we follow the process.

When the book starts departing from your eyes, then forget about impacting your world. It's not the discovery of talent or purpose that guarantees impact, it is Joshua 1:8. It is the commitment to the word that will make your ways (Purpose, Callings, Desires, Talents, etc) prosperous, and grant you impact. Daniel understood this principle when he said "They that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits". Impact is the exclusive reserve of those who know God. Students of the word can't escape impacting their world. If you also check the record of believers who are making impact in the world today, you'd discover that they are word practitioners. Bishop David Oyedepo has often shared his testimony of how he read the Bible 3 times, and yet he has not understood everything in it. And if you check, he's making great impact. Truly,

students of the word can't escape impacting their world.

Your ways are not sure to prosper without the word of God dwelling richly in you. Your calling or purpose may be strong, but without the word, there'd be flaws. As a matter of scriptures, God won't show you your purpose until you first become a student of the word.

2 Pet 1:10 says "wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall". Your election is not sure until you give diligence to studying God's word. I remember how I went in search for God's purpose for my life in 2013. I resigned from my job just to attend a bible school in the month of March.

During the bible school program, the only prayer point I had was "Lord, show me Your purpose for my life". Surprisingly, on the fourth day, God told me to continue building myself. That literally meant that I had not studied the word enough. And as I continued building myself, God showed me His purpose for my life. If you've not found your purpose, then you've not studied the word enough. If it doesn't feel like you have a life, then you're not attending to God's word. Prov 4:20-22 specifically tells us that God's word adds life to them who study it.

## **THE CONDITION OF THINGS DOES NOT CHANGE THE PROCESS...**

It's disturbing that we are in a time when young people respond to the conditions of their environment, instead of responding to



the demands of their make-up. In Rev 5:10, after Jesus redeemed us, the bible says “He made us kings and priests, to reign on the earth forever”. That’s our make-up, to reign on the earth, and the condition of things can’t change that. Don't mistake your condition for your make-up!

I get upset when I see young people engaging in quick-money businesses, especially multi-level marketing businesses. They don’t sell any particular product, except to look for down lines. Down lines are their products. The truth is, no amount of down line can guarantee impact in life, it is our commitment to studying the word that will. Does it even make sense to you? Besides the fact that my down lines would have an opportunity to make money, am I really impacting their lives? Any profit that is not rooted in impact is lust; and it's not of God.

Yes, it may involve hard work; and according to Prov 22:29, hard work will certainly bring you before great men. But being before great men is not the same as being a great man; it is God's word that will make you a great man. Don't mistake association with identification. Being before great men is association, being a great man is identification. If you can put the amount of effort you put into looking for down lines into studying the word of God, your life would have completely transformed.

It might interest you to know that Jesus was also affected by the condition of His environment. He was first born into a manger, and then He later became a carpenter. Meanwhile, His make-up was to be a Saviour. But as He began to respond to the demands of His make-up through studying,

prayers and fasting, His make-up began to manifest. Luke 4:16 says “His custom was to read”, Luke 4:21 says “this day is the scripture fulfilled”, and His fame went abroad. Impact is sure, if only we would respond to the demands of our make-up.

## **BUT AS A YOUTH, WHAT IS YOUR MAKE-UP?**

True, God may have redeemed all of us as kings and priests to reign on the earth; but He also put special features or abilities into young people. 1 John 2:14 clearly outlines these special features;

*"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".-*  
1 John 2:14

Let's do some analysis;

First, it says **"YOU ARE STRONG"**

But what does it mean to be strong?

In Zech 12:8, the Bible tells us that "In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them". If a weak person shall be like David - who was described as the mighty man of war, who also killed Goliath, then who is a strong one? If the house of the weak shall be

as God, and angels before them, how will the house of the strong be?

Isaiah 60:22 further tells us that "a little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time". If a little one will take a thousand, and a small one a strong nation, what will a strong one take?

From these analysis, we'd discover that youths are ordained for global impact. The entire world is our territory. The minimum number of people your life should impact is 1000. This also means you should begin to check yourself, how many people have your life impacted right now? At age 13, Jesus was already impacting lives.

Secondly, it says ***"GOD'S WORD ABIDES IN YOU"***

In John 15:7, the Bible says "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you". This simply means that you have cheap access to answered prayers. While others may be struggling to receive answers, you're sure to receive answers anytime you pray.

A Christian brother called me around 11:00pm, and said he needed to see me. I met with him that night and he explained that he had just received a call from someone telling him to appear in court on Monday for a twenty-million-naira case. He said he did not have a lawyer, and even if he did, he did not have money to hire one. I told him not to worry, that I knew quite a number of lawyers.

However, I was not going to call any of them since our God is the judge of all. I further told him that "we will hire God"; he laughed, but we prayed about it anyway. The next day, while on a transit bus, a corporately dressed man with a glowing face appeared to him with a briefcase on his hand. He asked my Christian brother what the problem was, that he is the lawyer that was sent to defend his case. But my Christian brother was surprised, and so he could not utter a word. The lawyer left after a while, and came back to him later that day. This time, my Christian brother was already expecting him. He explained everything that had happened to the lawyer, and the lawyer guaranteed him that the case was settled. That same night, the lawyer appeared in the dream of the man who called my Christian brother, and said "let my client go, otherwise, I will cause all your children to go through everything he is going through".

This man woke up and called my Christian brother immediately and told him that he had withdrawn the case from the court, because his lawyer just appeared to him.

Sometime ago a member of my fellowship called me and said "Pastor, please o, my wife left home since morning, and all she said was 'I am coming'". I left the dinner I was preparing to have and rushed quickly to his place to pray with him. I got to his house at 7:25pm, and prayed till 7:30pm. I particularly declared that "in 30 minutes, his wife must return from wherever she was". After the prayer, I sat down with him in his sitting room - with an assurance that his wife would return. At exactly 7:59pm, his daughter called him. After they exchanged pleasantries, he began to report the matter to his daughter when I grabbed his hands and said "No! We have seen your wife, stand up, let us go and



open the gate for her". He followed me to the gate, and as we opened the padlock, we saw his wife standing right in front of the gate, about to knock.

This is why you must not despise your youth. 1 Tim 4:12-16 says *"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"*. You're supposed to be the example that God answers prayer, the example that faith still works, the example that love still works, the example that holiness is possible, the example that positive conversation is possible. I have a feeling that on the judgement day, God will judge the youths first, because they are the ones that He called to lead.

Finally, it says ***"YOU HAVE OVERCOME THE WICKED ONE"***

1 Jn 4:4 says "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world". In other words, an overcomer is a person who carries the Spirit of God inside of him. That also means that what you carry inside you is too much for the world. The world cannot contain the deposits that God has placed inside you.

In Gen 26:16, Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we. Just imagine, one man had more resources than what an entire nation had. That's the kind of testimony that youths are destined to share. The impact of a youth is not limited to a particular place; the entire world is our

coverage area. In fact, you'd disappoint your potentials if you don't make global news.

You don't have any excuse. Don't tell me some witches in your village have tied down your destiny. That's why Isaiah 41:15 says "behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff". You already have a built-in capacity to pull down any obstacle that may try to hold you back.

Let me conclude with this; remember the parable of the talents? The master gave them talents, and told them to occupy till he comes. God's word is that talent; and He expects you to trade with it and make impact in your world. In 1 Tim 4:13, Paul said "Till I come, give attendance to reading". You may

have other talents, but God's word is the one talent that makes sense out of the others. Develop yourself in it daily, and you'd definitely impact your world.

God bless you, I love you, and don't forget to send me your testimony.

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