

Jeremiah: The Young Prophet
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Then I said, "Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, because I am a youth." Jeremiah 1:6

There are specific difficulties of being young today. First, they must deal with the fears of the world that are constantly being revealed to them. They do not have the experience to understand that threats are present all the time and usually overstated. As well, they struggle with issues in society such as poor leadership in schools, homes and society.

Yet God Needs Youthful Servants. Why might God have called young men to serve? Perhaps it is because of their ability to grow into their skills. Another point might be their absence of bitterness or cynicism. Finally, youth often have an openness to changing their minds that is lost as we get older. Without a doubt, one of the great blessings to have in life is to be a young Christian!

Making the Most of Youth

1. Choose your associations wisely – The bible says “do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals” (1 Corinthians 15:33). You **MUST** be careful who you choose as friends. You **MUST** choose not to have some friends. Note that the passages suggests that this is a deceptive truth; meaning, you cannot see it without discernment.

2. Learn self-control - the bible says “like a city that is broken into and without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit” (Proverbs 25:28) People who practice delayed gratification are more likely to succeed in all things, but this is especially true of spiritual things. Your life now is paying for your future; self-control is a way of investing that payment.

3. Practice honor and respect – the bible says “render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor” (Romans 13:7). Society pushes people to “earn” respect, but God demands we respect all to whom we owe. Learning to honor makes you worthy of honor later in life.

4. Be a deliberate Christian – the bible says “if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve....but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 3:7). Joshua was telling people who were already the people of God that they needed to make a commitment again. We need to choose who you will serve every day. We need to make every decision in our life as one walking in the way of Christ.

Living right with God in your youth has Great Rewards. This is because you will have hard days ahead (Ecclesiastes 12:1). If you are with God in them, then God will be with you in them. As well, you will also have prosperity in God. Your life will be better for choosing in youth; marriage, work, and friendships all will be fuller and richer in God. Choose to walk in Christ!