



Praying as families for the guidance of youth and singles in the right direction for life

Day 33

The high-energy and high-potential stage of life is often the youth stage. It is a precious time when individuals make significant decisions about their careers, marriages, and more. Many biblical heroes received their call from God during this stage, harnessing their high energy for God's glory. According to the UN's report, nearly 1.8 billion people, a quarter of the population, fall between the ages of 15 and 35. Jesus started and even ended his ministry within this stage of his life. Unfortunately, the enemy targets this stage to derail lives and choices, taking advantage of hormonal changes and presenting enticing and destructive options. Many succumb to impulsive decisions, later regretting their consequences.

How do the youth in our churches fare in their choices? Surveys, including those by Barna research, indicate that Christian youth don't significantly differ from their peers in making life choices. Many have yielded to the pleasures of sin, diverting from God's plan. In some churches, the absence of young people is evident, with pews filled mainly by the elderly. However, we praise God for ministries focusing on today's youth, guiding them based on their interests and age. Leaders in older generations often committed their lives to Jesus during their youth, emphasizing the critical nature of this period for spiritual decisions.

In addition to navigating career choices, many young people also make decisions about marriage. Unfortunately, some make ungodly choices, leading to separation or divorce. Lack of godly decision-making and reliance on rational thinking rather than divine wisdom contribute to these challenges. This is also due to lack of mentoring by their own families and the Church at large.

The number of singles has increased significantly, with many entering singlehood due to circumstances. While some choose singlehood for reasons like career pursuits and independence, others are influenced by negative perceptions of marriage, wrong



role models, or selfish perspectives. The enemy has whispered so many lies which have been bought in and have taken them away from the choice of a married life.

While maintaining celibacy and singlehood for the sake of God's kingdom and other genuine reasons such as health and emotional issues is understandable, rejecting marriage and family for convenience and freedom is not in the pattern that God has designed for human beings. However, these individuals and their families go through much pain and loneliness and misunderstanding given their singlehood status, which needs much prayer.

We need to pray for the younger generation to have mentors to nurture them, and their own parents and grandparents to help them teach and practice a godly lifestyle and righteous living. Churches should reach out to connect with youth and singles, showing love and care that draws them to God's fold. May they encounter their Creator during their youth, guarding His word to resist the devil's attempts to derail them.

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the precious time of youth. Many have answered your call during this period, fulfilling your purpose. Guide today's youth, helping them grow in your love and make godly choices. Lord, we pray for the whole community of singles who need your guidance, protection, and your direction to help them navigate the various challenges they face, especially in their loneliness. Strengthen them against distractions and influences contrary to your purposes. Provide godly mentors to journey with them and discover their purpose. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

