

PEACE HOUSE

SAYCO

ONLINE  
ONSITE

STUDENTS AND YOUTH CONGRESS

PROGRAMME

'GO  
IN THIS  
THY  
MIGHT..'



28-02  
APRIL/ MAY

20  
21

Bro.  
GBILE  
AKANNI

*Ministry*

ALL SAYCO CENTRES



*And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? Judges 6:14*

**I**n every generation and dispensation, when there are challenges that are overwhelming and mankind becomes desperate and despondent and all efforts to contain the situations and circumstances humanly fails, God in mercy usually seeks to intervene by quietly searching out for available and useful vessels from any location on earth irrespective of the person's gender, race or colour to engage in order to turn things around.

*These vessels He chooses not because they are strong in themselves but that through them He might prove Himself strong on their behalf 2 Chronicles 16:9, and manifest His glory.*

Notable amongst those used of God to intervene in time past were the youths. The roll call of young people that God used in Bible times to do great exploit is ever evident before us.

**Joseph as a focused youth became instrumental in saving his entire family, the economy of Egypt and the world from famine.**

**David was a youth when he was used to silence Goliath of Gath who ridiculed and scorned Israel's army day and night. Jeremiah was a young man who was reluctant and unwilling to undertake an assignment for God because he was a youth but the Lord rebuked him never to say so as He was sending him to nations to declare His word.**

**The Great Babylonian kingdoms were brought to their knees as Daniel and his friends stood for God. Esther a young pretty Jewish girl was used to deliver the Jews from massacre as the queen.**

**So also was Mary used of God to birth the Messiah of the whole of mankind from the bondage of sin and enslavement.**

**It was a young man, John the Baptist whom God used to end the 400 years of dark silence of no prophecy in Israel.**

**Why does God seek out the young to engage in His kingdom agenda? The young, have the advantage of protracted and enduring usage. The young have a might of the dew - freshness of their lives.**

In this year's Students and Youths Congress (SAYCO), God is coming again to the corners of our world to commission some young lives for some strategic kingdom operations in our nation and the nations of the world to route the kingdom of darkness where it holds sway and redeem the captives and to recover lost territories and platforms and advance God's kingdom on the earth.

This is the reason why God is inviting you all to this year's congress. Come with an open heart prepared for an impartation that shall position you for the days ahead.

This year's congress will be an onsite meeting in our various centres across the nations where the Lord will enable us to gather together but with some online inputs from various parts of the world. It will be a full congress as we used to so hold the meetings. We shall gather in camps and conference centres where we can secure facilities, though with Covid-19 protocols in full consideration.

*Your brother,*  
**Gbile Akanni.**

**SAYCO 2021 PROGRAM SCHEDULES**

TIME DATE		4:30 5:15 pm	5:15 5:25 pm	5:25 5:40 pm	5:40 5:55 pm	5:55 6:10 pm	6:10 7:20 pm	7:20 7:25 pm	7:25										
WED 28	<i>Arrival and Registration</i>	Prayer, Praise, Charge unto prayer (Onsite)	Opening Prayers, and Hymn (Online)	Welcome and Introduction of centres, around the world (Online)	Prayer Uproar for SAYCO (Online)	Special Numbers from 3 nations and prayers (Online)	Opening Charge: Atar calls and prayers (Online)	Closing Remarks and Announcements (Online)	Onsite arrange ments and counselling (Onsite)										
THUR 29	<i>Prayers and a Hymn (Onsite)</i>	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	8:40 AM	9:40 AM	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 PM	1:15 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	4:20 PM	5:20 PM	6:10 PM	6:20 PM	7:20 PM	7:25 PM	7:25 PM
FRI 30	<i>Devotional Challenge 1, 2, 3 (Online)</i>																		
SAT 1	<i>Prayer Uproars (Onsite)</i>																		
SUN 2	<i>Special Numbers (Online)</i>																		
	<i>Theme Talk 1, 2, 3 (Online)</i>																		
	<i>Alone with God (Onsite)</i>																		
	<i>Bible Study (Onsite) 1, 2, 3 (Onsite)</i>																		
	<i>Lunch Break, Rest and Counseling (Onsite)</i>																		
	<i>Prayers, Praise and Worship (Onsite)</i>																		
	<i>Workshop (Onsite)</i>																		
	<i>Prayer and Hymn (Online)</i>																		
	<i>Seminar (Online)</i>																		
	<i>Partifinders and Pacesetters (Online)</i>																		
	<i>Special Numbers (Online)</i>																		
	<i>Message (Online)</i>																		
	<i>Prayers, Remarks and announcements (Online)</i>																		
	<i>Onsite Arrangements</i>																		

GO IN THIS THY MIGHT

**HIGHLIGHTS AND PROCEDURES**

**1. Onsite Components**

Everyday, the meeting starts at the onsite centres with prayers and worship. The worship is the only time of worship we have in the meetings, so it must be attended to very seriously and prayerfully, as it is what must prepare the participants to receive from God all through the days. It must not be a drag as if we are only singing to wait for others or to hook on the online platform. We must indeed be in the atmosphere of worship and prayer to receive any inputs from the online.

Every morning, there is prayer Mobilisation and praise and worship and a devotional charge unto prayer and personal consecration to meet the Lord. These will run for about 90 minutes. The devotional charge must not be more than forty (40) minutes, so as to give room for prayers both before and after and we still must have a good time of worship.

It is good that your center is ready for the online input from about 8.25am so as to ensure you don't miss anything from the very beginning of the input.

**THE PRAYER UPROAR** We shall have some twenty (20) minutes corporate prayer uproar on site everyday while the tips or burdens to set the prayer focus will be shared online for us all to follow. We must appoint specific persons to help lead the brethren into prayer. He does not preach again, he only picks the prayer issues already raised online to move the brethren unto concerted praying.

**ALONE WITH GOD** For the three full days of the meeting, we have created a thirty (30) minutes space for each participant to be alone with God after the Theme talks before we go for the Bible Study. It is not a time for announcements or counseling. It is a time for each individual to sit alone before the Lord for personal meditation, contemplation and consecration of their his or her life to the Lord in response to the word God is sending to us. It should be strictly observed and we hope the entire camp with be quiet. We have created this space to increase the conviction of the Spirit on the meeting, to add to the prayer content of the congress and to create a necessary break from being chocked with several instructions that may be flowing through all the speakers.

**BIBLE STUDIES ON DISCIPLESHIP IN YOUR YOUTH** A crucial training to release your might: There are 3 Slots for Bible Study in the meeting and they are onsite.

Each bible study session runs for 90 minutes and we intend to run it in small bible study groups. You will appoint bible study leaders from among those who attended the SAYCO preview, who are able to lead and clearly express the word of God as we all studied together. The Bible study coordinator will then bring coordination to the Bible study sessions and may be able to give short summaries at the end of each session or a combined summary at the end of the entire Bible study. For maximum participation and impact, the group should not be too large and we expect the leaders to allow contribution from the brethren. The Bible study is a very major aspect of this meeting and we trust the Lord to use it to impact the participants for a definite response unto discipleship while they are still young and for them also to go in their might to make other disciples.

**PERSONAL COUNSELING** As we look unto the Lord for His visitation, we envisage there will be much need for counseling as people respond to the altar calls as the word of God comes to our hearts. As usual in our meetings, we give much attention to counseling during the break period and after the night sessions. All the resource persons who were part of the preview should please be prepared to undertake this labour for the Lord. This is the crucial point of bringing in the sheaves and we must not throw the net for a catch only to release the fishes back into the river. The Lord will grant you grace and wisdom to handle this crucial aspect of the meeting with every sense of urgency and responsibility. Being a youth meeting, counseling is usually very intense as their hearts are broken to find answers to their needs. Prayers and ministration of the Holy Spirit may be needed at several points, we trust the Lord to guide you and use you to supply this at the local centres.

**FOLLOW UP STRATEGIES:** The strategic thing about this new mode of meeting God has brought us into is in its capacity to reach the grassroots and to affect the locality of the centres. Follow up strategy must be put in place right away so as to roast all the “fishes” that shall be drawn into our dragnets. It is to bring enlargement to the work in our various localities and cause our growing family in discipleship to multiply. All your labour to organize a SAYCO centre and not just a viewing centre is to catch them young and draw them into the bosom of the Master. Be alert and very sensitive to what the Lord will be leading you to do. This meeting will be a major Mobilization of young people across the nations and will be happening concurrently. May the Lord strengthen your hands in Jesus name.

**WORKSHOPS IN GROUPS** We are unable to mount all the professional workshops in this meeting and we will allow you the flexibility of mounting any of the prepared workshops in your centre as you have the capacity as there are resource persons or participants for which a particular workshop is relevant. We selected six workshops that could cut across different professions and general issues of life for the young. We shall furnish you with the papers as prepared by some of our resource persons which you can pre-study with those you will charge to lead the workshops. A workshop group should be manned by three persons:

1. **The Presenter**
2. **The Coordinator who leads the discussion**
3. **The Rapporteur who takes the notes of proceeding and gives report of**

what the workshop group rises up with. If you are able to raise resource persons for the workshops and you have interested participants who want to attend such, then you are good to go on it. The workshop sessions will run for two slots on Thursday and Friday, while Saturday will be used to deal with Strategies for Engaging Battle for the Young

- **WORKSHOP 1. Developing the Leader in You:** This is open to all and anyone who wants to explore this aspect of their growth and who desire to excel in leadership grace.
- **WORKSHOP 2. Strategic Christian Youth Involvement in Politics and Governance:** All who would want to explore Christian involvement in the politics of their nations and seek to occupy the space for the Lord in governance.

**WORKSHOP 3: Money and Kingdom Investments** For anyone but partic-

ularly those who are in business or desire to make money or seek to establish investments but with the kingdom of God in view. It will set for us the right perspective in going into the market place

**WORKSHOP 4: I.C.T.: Positives and Perils of the Internet**

**Revolution:** It explores the use of ICT to advance in your career or academics. What are the positive things to look for as we engage the use of ICT in this era and what perils are embedded and how to walk your way through unscathed. It is open to all.

**WORKSHOP 5: Achieving Academic Excellence:** This is particularly focused and recommended for students and all who are still pursuing academics at any level. It will explore how to be on the cutting edge every time and push your way to the top where you can occupy the critical gate in the world for the Lord.

**WORKSHOP 6A: Achieving Career and Professional Excellence:**

This shall be a workshop focusing on Professional and Career development to achieve excellence for all who are in the professional industries, technology, banking and finance, manufacturing and other areas of specialization and career development, either self employed or CEOs, Judiciary and Legal profession and other such categories.

**WORKSHOP 6B: Achieving Vocational Excellence:**

This is open to all who are artisans in any aspect of work, vocational experts and all who wants to do practical things with their hands. They are the hands that translate theories into actualities in the society.

**STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING BATTLE FOR THE YOUNG**

A slot is being set aside on Saturday for practical exploration of practical strategies to engage battle for the young in your locality or nation. During this time we shall introduce and dedicate some materials we have prepared for this, trusting the Lord to mobilize an army for Himself who will move through the length and breath of the land and nations to aggressively pursue the recovery of the young people being carted away by the enemy so early in their lives, while we capture those on the verge of being trapped in the dungeon of darkness. This will be both online and onsite.

**2. Online Components**

Though the meeting will kick off in earnest at the centres from 4.30pm on Wednesday, April 28, to allow for the centres to get themselves organized, the online input on the first day will be the major thing, coming with opening prayers and a hymn at 5.15pm, the welcome and recognition of centres all over the nations, prayer uproar for the congress and all the centres, special numbers from different nations and we shall close with the opening charge. We hope to handover the centre coordination for onsite arrangements at about 7.30pm every day by the grace of God.

The online inputs will start off each day by 8.30am till 11.30am when we release the brethren to for their alone with God and all other onsite programs. The online will resume back at 4.15 and run till 7.25pm when the final message is concluded..

**DEVOTIONAL CHALLENGES** When we gather together for the online inputs, there shall be a short devotional challenge to set our hearts together on fire and with a single focus for the day and for our personal walk with God.

**PRAYER UPROAR TIPS** We shall take prayer uproar tips to develop the burden for the focus of prayer. It is only a mobilization unto concerted, earnest, corporate prayer which shall be conducted onsite in a way that moves the participant into actual praying. It shall be a 20 minutes charge unto prayer.

**THEME TALKS AND EVENING MESSAGES** The main talks developing on the theme, “Go in this Thy Might” shall also be an online input. We look forward to the Lord for impartation and conviction that will remain indelible on the hearts and lives of participants. It will lead us into alone with God, counseling and other onsite programs.

**SPECIAL NUMBERS** We hope to have song ministrations from across the nations and the centres. All who intend for their singing teams to sing or minister to us during SAYCO must pre-record their songs. The duration for the songs will be 3 to 4 minutes. All who intend to sing on the platform should please send us their pre-recorded songs. Brother Bitrus or Saturday will be on hand to furnish you with further details on this aspect of the meeting.

**SEMINARS** We are featuring two seminars: Seminar A will be on Marriage, dealing with choice of a life partner and marriage that will enhance the potential of the young, while the second Seminar B is focusing on building healthy relationships that will release the might of the young and not bring damage to his destiny.

**PATHFINDERS AND PACESETTERS** This will run in the three slots. We shall feature live-panelists of those who right from their youth have started to be pathfinders and pacesetters in their generation. The last slot will be the mission challenge to go and be a pathfinder and pacesetters for the Lord in this generation.



## BIBLE STUDY

### DISCIPLESHIP IN YOUR YOUTH A Crucial Training To Release Your Might

*That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; That our daughters may be as pillars, Sculptured in palace style; That our barns may be full, Supplying all kinds of produce; That our sheep may bring forth thousands And ten thousands in our fields; That our oxen may be well-laden; That there be no breaking in or going out; That there be no outcry in our streets. Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the Lord! (Psa 144:12-15 NKJV)*

#### INTRODUCTION

Today, we are living in a world where there is a deliberate and progressive disconnect between the older and the younger generation. The ancient and righteous path is largely forsaken and termed “old school” by the present generation of young people. This is mainly because the older generation have forgotten or neglected the way of DISCIPLESHIP, God’s way of teaching the younger generation the ways and the deeds of God. It is also because many young people seem not to want to have anything to do with the older generation especially where such people are godly. This is not supposed to be so.

If any nation or family will become exalted to be a praise in the earth, righteousness is the way. And the way of righteousness has to be taught and passed on

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from one generation to the next because no one is naturally born righteous. Everyone is born a sinner. Righteousness is only imputed by Christ at one's new birth experience and thereafter, it is learnt as a lifestyle through the process called **Discipleship**.

*We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; Ps. 78:4-7*

However, the foundation for godly living is better and more easily laid when one is young than in old age. And issues of life are better learnt and assimilated in the days of one's youth.

So, to the young people, the word of God says,

*It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. Lam. 3:27*

*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matt. 11:29*

*Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": Eccl. 12:1*

If your generation will experience God and set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments, **DISCIPLESHIP** is a necessity. You must learn the Lord and learn His ways. However, the yoke of **DISCIPLESHIP** is easier to bear in the days of one's youth than in old age. A time is coming when the yoke will be difficult to bear; and even if you want to be discipled that time, the irreversible damage that has occurred cannot be corrected again.

Therefore, in this Bible Study, we shall examine **DISCIPLESHIP IN YOUR YOUTH**, trusting God that you will go from here with proper understanding to deliberately enter into discipleship relationship now that you are young so as to be able to fulfil the purpose of God for your life and have a long time to do so.

## **A. WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?**

*Matt. 4:18-22; Mk. 3:13-19; Matt. 11:29-30; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 4:11-14; Gal. 4:1-2*

Discipleship, in the biblical context, simply means following Jesus Christ in order to learn of Him and be like Him both in character and in service. It means walking with God as a child of God under a human tutor or guardian (a discipler).

Discipleship is a relationship that brings you teachings and instructions from God in order to frame your life for the future (*Ps. 32:8-9*). There are basically two ways of learning, as we can see in *Ps. 32:8-9*. It is either by obeying direct instructions and teachings or through hard experiences like applying "bits and bridles" to a horse before he could understand and obey. Discipleship offers us direct instructions and teachings for simple obedience.

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It is a training of **LIFE** so that you will be transformed into the image of Christ; and it is a training of your **SKILL** so that you will be taught and equipped to serve God acceptably in line with God's purpose for your life, even as Jesus Christ our Lord did.

It is necessary for one to be a child of God before he can be disciplined to be like Jesus. This is because it is only a child of God that has the life of God (*1Jn. 3:8-9*). It is only when one has the life of Christ (the new creation life) in him that he has the potential to become like Jesus. A goat cannot be trained to become a man: they have different nature. It is only a man that can become a mature man. Even so, it is not possible to train a sinner to become a saint. It is first an issue of birth before training can take place. You must be born again to receive the new life (the life of Christ) before you can be disciplined to become like Jesus.

Every child of God is an heir of God, joint heir with Jesus Christ (*Rom. 8:15-17*). It is appointed by God for every heir of God to pass through the hands of tutors and guardians (*Gal. 4:1-2*) where he will receive teachings, instructions and divine disciplinary dealings in order to become what God the Father wants him to be (*Ps. 32:8-9; Lam. 3:27 AMP*).

*It is good for a man that he should bear the yoke [of divine disciplinary dealings] in his youth. Lam. 3:27 AMP*

*Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matt. 4:19  
That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Heb. 6:12 KJV*

*And have you entirely forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you, his children? He said, "My child, don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you and don't be discouraged when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes those he accepts as his children." As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Whoever heard of a child who was never disciplined? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children after all. Since we respect our earthly fathers who disciplined us, should we not all the more cheerfully submit to the discipline of our heavenly Father and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always right and good for us because it means we will share in his holiness. Heb. 12:5-10 NLT.*

For the heirs of the kingdom to be properly instructed and to go through divine disciplinary dealings, God appoints tutors, guardians and stewards to watch over them and administer these teachings and dealings to their lives. His heirs are put under such people and such systems until the time appointed by God, the Father. Every heir of God who hopes to become anything tangible in the kingdom of God must go through this process of **DISCIPLESHIP**.

*Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Gal. 4:1-2*

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In a nutshell, this is what discipleship is all about. It offers you the opportunity to receive your portion of God's divine disciplinary dealings under a human hand that will position you for divine approval for your inheritance and to make you a partaker of His holiness. To ignore this is to prove to be a bastard in God's household.

Several people in the Bible who became great for God in their life-time, went through DISCIPLESHIP. Here are some examples:

## **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Even our Lord Jesus Christ, who is God Himself, went through DISCIPLESHIP in the days of His humanity on earth before He could enter and fulfil the purpose of God for bringing Him into the world. (*Lk. 2:51-52; Heb. 5:9; Heb. 2:10 AMP*)

*Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.*

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

*Lk. 2:51-52*

*For it was an act worthy [of God] and fitting [to the divine nature] that He, for Whose sake and by Whom all things have their existence, in bringing many sons into glory, should make the Pioneer of their salvation perfect [should bring to maturity the human experience necessary to be perfectly equipped for His office as High Priest] through suffering. Heb. 2:10 AMP*

Jesus went through DISCIPLESHIP in His humanity, under human hands in the days of His youth. He went under the hands of Mary (His mother) and Joseph particularly from age 12 to age 30; and His life in His humanity was molded under the Law for instruction and divine disciplinary dealings of God so as to bring to maturity, the human experience necessary for Him to be perfectly equipped for the purpose of God for His life. And if God did not spare Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, He will not spare anyone who desires to please God and become useful in His hands.

## **JOSEPH**

In the Bible, **Joseph** was the eleventh son of his father Jacob. But unlike the older ten, he related more closely with his father, receiving instructions, learning his godly lifestyle and living in obedience to his father, which eventually became his personal lifestyle. That was discipleship. It was as he obeyed his father's instruction and went in search of his brothers despite their wickedness to him, that his journey to the throne started.

The godly lifestyle he learnt became evident in him even in his relationship with his brothers. He was able to discern that the kind of life his brothers were living was not right and he often brought their bad report to his father, not minding the consequences. He refused to join the multitude to do evil. He has been disciple into godly living. That became a solid foundation for the great purpose of God for his life.

It is important to note that he could not have been available for such intimate discipleship relationship later in life as easily as he did when he was young. And without that discipleship under his father, He would not have arrived at his desti-

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ny; he would have become a piece of bread in the hands of Potiphar's wife. Discipleship is easier and more advantageous when one is young. This time of your youth is the best window of opportunity for you to be discipled for the future that God has for you.

## RUTH

Ruth was a young lady when she came under Naomi, her mother-in-law. When her husband died, she cleaved to Naomi because of the God of Israel she saw in her, who also had become her God. She left her people and her personal ambition to follow Naomi even though her situation looked naturally hopeless (*Ruth 1:6-19*). She was available both to help Naomi and to learn the way of God from that elderly godly woman. That was discipleship. God used Naomi to instruct and guide her until the time appointed for her to get married. She was properly guided into marriage and Ruth entered into that great privilege of being one of the female progenitors of our Lord Jesus Christ (*Ruth 4:13-22*).

## MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

The **Virgin Mary** had an Elizabeth to run to, after the angel Gabriel visited her with that strange but good news about the Savior of the world to be born through her (*Lk. 1:26-56*). Elizabeth was an older and more mature woman in the things of God and in that kind of experience. And Mary, a young and inexperienced lady was relating with her, prior to her encounter with Angel Gabriel. When the angel departed from her, Mary went immediately to Elizabeth's house. One could see the working of the Holy Spirit in their midst when she arrived there, which brought a clearer understanding to Mary about what she was passing through. She was properly instructed and guided while there. And Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months before she went back home. That was discipleship.

## TIMOTHY

He was a young disciple in Lystra. He had become converted to Christ and was growing as a general disciple among the brethren. His father was Greek while his mother was a Jewess. One day when Paul got to Lystra, the people spoke well about Timothy to him. So Paul got interested in Timothy and decided to take him along as he went preaching from place to place. And Timothy left his father and mother and followed Paul. That was discipleship. Paul decided to circumcise him so that Timothy could have access to be with Paul whether in the synagogue of the Jews or outside. He followed Paul everywhere. He went through thick and thin with Paul. He was taught and properly instructed in the way of the Lord and he passed through many divine disciplinary dealings under the hand of Paul, learning the life of Christ and being equipped for the purpose of God for his life (*2Tim. 3:10-11*). After some years, he became a great instrument in God's hands. He became a bishop over many churches and he carried on God's work after Paul died (*Phil. 2:19-22; 2Tim. 4:1-8*). That was discipleship.

All these and many others in the Bible **were young when they were discipled**; they became like Jesus in their character and they became great instruments in God's hands. And because of the character transformation that they experienced, the purpose of God did not suffer damage in their hands.

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Even though old people are not exempted from discipleship, such people will only benefit from it if they are humble and teachable. Moreover, discipleship for them is more of mending their past failures rather than building a vibrant future. Discipleship is better experienced in one's youth. If you go through it now, God's purpose will prosper, and it will not suffer damage in your hands as well.

## **B. WHY MUST DISCIPLESHIP BE IN THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH?**

### **1. You are an Heir now! You need discipleship now!**

(*Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 4:1-2*)

i. Have you been born again, born of the Spirit of God in this day of your youth? Then this is the right time to be discipled, in these days of your youth when you are still fresh and flexible. You need discipleship now. Do not postpone it, lest you become hard and unbendable. You have become an heir; not of an ordinary man. You are an heir of God, joint heir with Jesus Christ.

ii. However, the heir as long as is a child does not differ at all from a slave. Treasures are not handed over to babes. He neither knows the value of things nor how to use them. He can easily exchange precious things for sweets and biscuits. Instead, what God does to His heirs that are still babes is to put them under tutors and guardians until the time appointed by the Father, a time when they are mature enough to handle their inheritance. Discipleship is the relationship between an heir of God and his tutor or guardian who is entrusted to bring him to maturity. Do not miss it now that you are young.

### **2. While it Is Day** (*Jn. 9:4; Prov. 10:5; Eccl. 12:1-2*)

The day is meant for working, and the night for sleeping. He who gathers in time of harvest is a wise son. But one who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame. Consequently, the time of one's youth is the right time to be trained for life and for service. It is the time for DISCIPLESHIP, the time when the sun, the light, the moon and the stars are still shining bright and are not darkened. The night is coming when no one can work or be discipled for any work.

### **3. There Are Giants On The Way**

There are "giants" waiting to battle with every heir, to see if they can collect his inheritance from him. *Matt. 21:33-39*.

Examples include:

- i. The giant of *hunger* against **Esau**. *Gen. 25:29-33*
- ii. **Joseph's brothers and Potiphar's wife** against **JOSEPH** *Gen. 37 & 39*
- iii. **Shechem**, the prince of the Hivites against **DINAH** *Gen. 34:1-4*
- iv. **Pharaoh** against **MOSES** *Ex. 2, 3, 4, 7-14*
- v. **Delilah** against **SAMSON** *Judg. 16:4-21*
- vi. **Haman** against **ESTHER** and **MORDECAI** *Esth. 3*
- vii. **Goliath** against **DAVID** *1Sam. 17:26, 44-51*
- viii. **Ahab** against **NABOTH** *1Kgs. 21:1-3*,
- ix. **Satan** and the Pharisees against **CHRIST** *Matt. 4:1-11*,

- x. *Satan* against **JUDAS ISCARIOT** *Jn. 12:3-6; Jn. 13:26-27*
- xi. **Modern Giants of the 21<sup>st</sup> century against the present day heirs** (*1 Tim 4:1-3; 2Tim. 3:1-9, 13-17; Jude 1-11, 20-24*)

Some of these heirs conquered the giants and possessed their inheritance; the stories of their discipleship experience are told in the Bible. Others exchanged it for a spoon of pottage. You will also definitely face the giants in one way or the other. The secret of overcoming the giants that will confront you tomorrow is to submit your life to be discipled today. Through discipleship, you will be equipped for the battle ahead of you.

#### **4. There Is A Time And A Season For Everything**

You need to submit to discipleship in these days of your youth because there is a time and a season for everything. (*Ecc. 3:1-2; Lam. 3:27, Ecc. 12:1*)

- The time of the youth is the best time for learning, whether physically or spiritually.
- It is a time of strength (*1Jn. 2:14*), a time when you are largely available to be discipled and a time when you have strength to put to practice, what you learn.
- The time of one's youth is also a time of flexibility of life and a time of adaptability.
- Yet the time of the youth is not unlimited. It is limited, and it will soon end. It is like the dew which appears in the morning, and when the sun is up, it disappears. You cannot be young forever.

Generally, even though you can be discipled any time, the time before marriage is the best time to be discipled. After marriage, marital responsibilities may slow you're your discipleship. Actually, at that time you will enter into another level of discipleship: discipleship for an effective and fulfilling marital relationship. To be discipled into the plan and purpose of God for your life, the best time for it is the time of your youth. Maximize this time of your youth for discipleship.

However, if you wait until when you are old before submitting your life to discipleship, disinterest would have set in. The time of old age is a time of loss of pleasure in many things including discipleship (*Ecc. 12:1*). Proper discipleship cannot take place in such a situation.

Moreover, many things would have gone wrong and many wrong steps taken in one's youth, cannot be reversed; for example, diseases caught while living in sin, diseases of old age, wrong marriage, wrong career, irreversible physical disabilities, etc. Discipleship in old age cannot correct such.

Also, in old age, the number of years to put to practice, the lessons learnt in discipleship and be profitable to the kingdom of God has been greatly reduced. Do not wait until you are old before you submit your life to discipleship. This thy might must be released now that you are young. Gideon was a young man when the Lord sent him to face the Midianites. This training is God's provision for you to be released in this thy might.

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## CONCLUSION

The Lord Jesus Christ has been waiting for you all this while, to make you and to expose you to divine experiences that will usher you into your glorious inheritance. He says 'Follow Me and I will make you.' And Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me and you will find rest for your soul.'

Discipleship is God's own method of making His vessels, those He will use for His glorious purposes. It is God's method of building, establishing and equipping His children for their future. And it is good for a man to bear the yoke of discipleship in the days of his youth. This is the right time for you to respond to God's call unto discipleship. I pray that you will respond appropriately to the voice of Him who speaks to you from heaven even now in Jesus' name.



### HYMN 1. OH LORD MY GOD!

1. Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the works thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the roaring thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Chrs : Then sings my soul,  
My saviour God to Thee,  
How great thou art,  
How great Thou art.*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
And hear the birds; sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

3. And when I think that God His son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

4. When burdens press and seem beyond endurance  
Bowed down with grief to Him I lift my face  
And then in love He brings me sweet assurance  
My child for you sufficient is my grace

5. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

### HYMN 2. ROCK OF AGES !

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure-  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2. Not the labour of my hands,  
Can fulfill Thy laws demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
And for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save and Thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Saviour, or I die!

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne;  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee!

### HYMN 3. JESUS, MY LORD, TO THEE I CRY

1. Jesus, my Lord, to Thee I cry;  
Unless Thou help me, I must die:  
Oh, bring Thy free salvation nigh,  
And take me as I am!

**Chrs:** *And take me as I am!*

*And take me as I am!*

*My only plea—Christ died for me!*

*Oh, take me as I am!*

2. Helpless I am, and full of guilt;  
But yet for me Thy blood was spilt,  
And Thou canst make me what Thou wilt,  
And take me as I am.

3. No preparation can I make,  
My best resolves I only break,  
Yet save me for Thine own Name's sake,  
And take me as I am.

4. Behold me, Saviour, at Thy feet,  
Deal with me as Thou seest meet;  
Thy work begin, Thy work complete,  
But take me as I am.

### HYMN 4. COME TAKE YOUR THRONE

1. I have prepared my heart for You;  
O Lord, come take Your throne. x2  
Nothing must come within my soul,  
Nothing must break into my thoughts,  
No one must rise to take Your place  
O Lord, come take Your throne.

2. I have reserved my lifetime for You;  
O Lord, come take control. x2  
My life must serve Your purpose Lord,  
Living for You and dying to self,  
My all I give Your will to serve;  
O Lord, come take control,

3. I have released my whole being to You  
O Lord, come take Your own. x2  
My heart, my soul and body, Lord!  
Once and for all and not bit by bit;  
I lay them all on the altar for You;  
O Lord, come take your own.

4. I have referred my life's end to You,  
Dear Lord, then take me home x2  
To see Thy face is all I ask  
My labour here must not be in vain  
My hope, my joy is to reign with You  
O may I make it home

### HYMN 5. I AM PRAYING BLESSED SAVIOUR

1. I am praying Blessed Savior  
To be more and more like thee  
I am praying that Thy Spirit  
Like a dove, may rest on me.

**Chrs:** *Thou Who knowest all my weakness,  
Thou Who knowest all my cares,  
While I plead each precious promise,  
Hear oh hear and answer prayer.*

2. I am praying, Blessed Savior  
For a faith so clear and bright  
That its eye will see Thy glory  
Through the deepest, darkest night

3. I am praying to be humbled  
By the power of Grace Divine  
To be clothed upon with meekness  
And to have no will but Thine

4. I am praying, Blessed Saviour  
And my constant prayer shall be  
For a perfect consecration  
That shall make me more like Thee.

### HYMN 6. TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

1. Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3. Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it Thine;  
It shall be no longer mine:  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store:  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all, for Thee.

#### **HYMN 7. HOW I PRAISE THEE, PRECIOUS SAVIOUR**

1. How I praise Thee, precious Saviour,  
That Thy love laid hold of me;  
Thou hast saved and cleansed and filled me,  
That I might Thy channel be.

*Chrs: Channels only, blessed master,  
But with all Thy wondrous power  
Flowing through us Thou canst use us  
Every day and every hour.*

2. Just a channel, full of blessing,  
To the thirsty hearts around;  
To tell out Thy full salvation,  
All Thy loving message sound.

3. Emptied that Thou shouldest fill me,  
A clean vessel in Thine hand;  
With no power but as Thou givest  
Graciously with each command.

4. Witnessing Thy power to save me,  
Setting free from self and sin;  
Thou hast bought me to possess me:  
In Thy fullness, Lord, come in.

5. Jesus fill now with Thy Spirit  
Hearts that full surrender know;  
That the streams of living water  
From our inner man may flow.

#### **HYMN 8. IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS**

1. It pays to serve Jesus- I speak from my heart;  
He'll always be with us, if we do our part;  
There's naught in this wide world can pleasure afford,  
There's peace and contentment in serving the Lord.

*Chrs: I love Him far better than in days of yore,  
I'll serve Him more truly than ever before,  
I'll do as He bids me whatever the cost,  
I'll be a true soldier- I'll die at my post.*

2. And oft when I'm tempted to turn from the track  
I think of my Saviour- my mind wanders back

To the place where they nailed Him on Calvary's tree,  
I heard a voice saying, "I suffered for thee."

3. A place I remember where I was set free,  
'Twas where I found pardon- a heaven to me;  
There Jesus spoke sweetly to my weary soul,  
My sins were forgiven, He made my heart whole.

4. How rich is the blessing the world cannot give,  
I'm satisfied fully for Jesus to live;  
Tho' friends may forsake me and trials arise,  
I am trusting in Jesus, His love never dies.

5. There is no one like Jesus can cheer me to-day,  
His love and His kindness can ne'er fade away;  
In winter, in summer, in sunshine and rain,  
His love and affection are always the same.

6. Will you have this blessing that Jesus bestows,  
A free, full salvation from sin's bitter throes?  
O come to the Saviour, to Calvary flee,  
The fountain is opened, is flowing for thee.

#### **HYMN 9. WHEN STRONG TEMPTATION**

1. When strong temptations surround me  
And the world's tempest face me;  
And Satan comes in like a friend  
Pushing strong for me to fall.

*Chrs: Saviour please fail not to call me  
As Thou didst Adam in Eden  
Saying where art thou O sinner  
That I may be saved from ruins.*

2. When satan comes with his deceits  
Showing heights of worldly fame;  
For my heart to bow and worship  
Just to gain worldly acclaim.

3. When the devil comes compelling  
Forcing me thy will to shun;  
At my right hand stands resisting,  
Falsely cries it shall be well.

4. When I'm bent to go my own way  
To do all I feel and will;  
When my heart and mind keeps panting,  
Neither hot and yet not cold.

5. When all friends and neighbours fail me  
And all comforts fly away;  
Deep sorrows come overpowering  
Like salt grains in tempest seas.

6. As a dog that no more heareth  
The hunter's whistles and calls;

I get lost in the world's wilderness  
Hoping never to return.

7. When my hope and my confidence  
Gets reposed in mere idols  
When incantations becomes prayer  
And I go chanting around.

### **HYMN 10. GIVE US O LORD THINE UNCTION**

1. Give us O Lord thine unction  
Anoint us for thy work  
Arise and set us in motion  
O Lord the man of war

2. Baptize us Lord with  
Thy fire And set our souls aflame  
To burn and shine for thy cause  
Revive your zeal in us

3. Refine us Lord and cleanse us  
Clothe us in holiness  
Transform our thoughts and nature ;  
Till we your glory show

4. New heart, more love, more passion  
For souls in satan' train  
With hook or net use us still  
Make us fishers of men

5. Not gold, not power, not knowledge,  
Will thy heaven unlock  
But prayer and faith and unity  
Will bring the latter rain

6. With tears and groans and fasting  
O Lord help us to pray  
Travailing as in birth for souls  
Till you revive the Church.

### **HYMN 11. GRACE, THY GRACE ALONE.**

1. Grace! Thy grace alone,  
Has brought me into thy will  
Stranger and alien I had been  
Till grace brought me so nigh.

**Chrs:** *Grace! Thy grace alone Is all I plead for  
Grace to serve Thee aright Lord  
O! Grace to love Thee more.*

2. 'Tis grace that teaches me  
Thy paths for me to know  
And grace day by day leads me on;  
My call not to let go.

3. I long for this grace Lord  
To be faithful a steward  
To lay my all down for the Church  
Till her glory bursts forth.

4. Make me a battle axe  
Kept Lord in Thy quiver  
Tried, trimmed, sharpened in Thy furnace  
Meet for my Master's use.

### **HYMN 12. HARK! THE VOICE OF JESUS CRYING.**

1. Hark! The voice of Jesus crying:  
"Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvest waiting;  
Who will bear the sheaves away?  
Loud and strong the master calleth,  
Rich reward He offers thee;  
Who will answer gladly saying,  
"Here am I: send me, send me"?"

2. If you cannot speak like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
You can say He died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked  
With the judgment's dread alarms  
You can lead the little children  
To the Saviour's waiting arms.

3. If, among the older people,  
You may not be apt to teach,  
"Feed my lambs say Christ our Shepherd,  
"Place the food within their reach."  
And it may be that the children  
You have led with trembling hand  
Will be found among your jewels  
When you reach the better land.

4. Let none hear you idly saying,  
"There is nothing I can do,"  
While the souls of men are dying,  
And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly  
Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth,  
"Here am I: send me, send me."