The Youth
and
Christianity

Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

After finishing the final draft of the book entitled 'Christian Marital life; I felt led by the Holy Spirit to embark to write a book on the Youth, who are an integral part of the society. It is for that reason that I began the work to come up with this book. It has been said that the youth are the future leaders of a nation therefore the youth must have a proper foundation in their youthful age in order not to be a nuisance or a liability to the parents or in the society by their bad character but be good and responsible citizens, before they become adults, so as if they get an opportunity in leadership, they become good and useful leaders with integrity and a vision for the people (the Nation).

I myself was once a youth and served the Lord in my local church as a leader in the position of a Bible Sunday school teacher and later a Youth leader for several years (7) and therefore have a firsthand experience in those departments.

This book will be useful to all the youths of different age groups and especially those who have already surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior and also to those who are going to cross over from the other camp of Satan and accept Jesus Christ the Messiah to be

their Lord and Savior (joining the right camp of the children of God).

In many countries it is not surprising that the youth comprise a big percentage of the populace. Therefore, it would be most unfair as well as disastrous to sideline or ignore the youth on the various issues touching on daily life. Hence the need for this invaluable book.

All I can tell you my dear reader is that life very generally very tough and you need to be tough yourself to be able to cope and manage. But as a youth you cannot be tough by your physical strength, no. You need the tough (Mighty) one – Christ Jesus (Isaiah 9:6) because he was the only one who made it through and came out victorious, as he has all that it takes. All those who have made it in life in the real sense - spiritual sense, God's sense have done so through Him. If you have decided to live for him in Him, you can make it too. (Romans 8:33-39; Philippians 4: 13).

The world we live in is cruel to everyone because of Satan who is the prince of this world and his servants too, but you must be ready to face the world or else you perish, so stand up for Jesus NOW, before you are overtaken by the world

events. This book is there for you to inform you and equip you for this life.

My prayer to you is that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, be on your side as you face life.

In this book and in all my other books, I have endeavored to restrict myself in King James version of the Holy Bible in quotations and the subsequent texts, as it is the best ever translation in English and in case you are uncomfortable with of don't despair, as all is well and not lost. Whenever you find I have given a scripture quotation, just go to your Bible (whatever version it is) and read and you will be in the same page with me in your reading.

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CHAPTER 1

The Youth and Christianity

In my introduction I talked of foundation which is necessary in a youth before reaching the adult stage. In life we find that everything has its own foundation or basis on which it stands on. A good example is a building. Before it is put up a foundation must be laid on which it will be built on, and a good one for it to stand on and last. Now for the youth we have such a foundation, a sure foundation, a proper foundation is nothing other than the word of God (*Matthew 7: 24-27).*

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.
And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7: 24- 27

From the above scripture we do see that hearing the word of God and doing is likened to wisdom or and which is very important in life as the following scripture says.

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Proverbs 8: 11

As a youth you may ask ‘What is wisdom and how can I get it?’ now read the following:

And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 28:28

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

True wisdom only comes from God (Daniel 2:19-20, Psalm 104:24, Romans 11:33-36, 1 Corinthians 1:20-25, James 3:13-17). Therefore, only those who have believed in Christ Jesus are wise and their lives are firmly built in godliness by the word of God and by their obedience to it (1 Samuel 15:20-23, Matthew 7:21, Luke 11:24-28, James 1:21-25). Because Jesus Christ is the Son of God, he too is wise just as his Father (Isaiah 11:1-2, Luke 2:40-52, Colossians 2:1-3, 8-9).

Make all efforts to be in Christ Jesus and live wisely as only the wise will enter heaven (Matthew 25:1-13). For more detailed information you can read my other book entitled "The World of Wisdom", also don't forget to get the second volume of "The Youth and Christianity" which details the numerous nitty gritty issues that affect the youth and possible solutions.

The book is a must read and if you fail to read it you are missed out in this life to your great disadvantage. It also has more useful information for those who have already crossed over into the Lord's camp (the family of God) on how to reach the final destination, that is, heaven.

As a youth you need to build your life properly so that it remains unshakeable. It is only possible if you build your life on a rock. That rock is no other but Jesus Christ; who is the rock of ages (Psalm 62: 1-2, 1 Corinthians 10: 1-4).

TRULY my hope waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.
He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

Psalm 62: 1-2

MOREOVER, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
And were all baptized unto Moses on the cloud and in the sea;
And did all eat the same spiritual meat;
And did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank the spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

The Scripture is clear that hearing the sayings of the Lord alone is not enough but we need to act on it as James the half brother of Jesus says in. (James 1: 22-25). As a youth you need Christ Jesus who is a spiritual Rock so as to be strengthened spiritually in your spirit to be able to overcome life situations. Read on.

THEN sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him a habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.
The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

Exodus 15:1-3

In the above scripture you can see that Moses and the children of Israel sung a song unto the LORD who had triumphed glorious against their enemies who were pursuing them. The Lord God is the only one who can save you in life situations, for as a man of war, he fights your battles (2 Chronicles 20:1-24) and therefore you only need

to prepare your heart to him and invite him to come and dwell in you as that is his desire (Revelation 3:20). If you do so, he will bless you and give you a new name as he did to Jacob (Genesis 35:1-12) for if you are not yet saved you hold a bad name; a sinner, which need be a born again Christian.

Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

Job 37:23

That is what Job a perfect and upright man who feared God and shunned evil (Job 1:1) had to say. God is truly Almighty as he is excellent in power.

As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.
For who Is God, save the LORD? And who is a rock, save our God?
God is my strength and power; and he maketh my way perfect.

He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places.
He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

2 Samuel 22:31-35

King David a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:13-14) said the above words, which are very powerful indeed concerning God. Have God in your life as he is strong and powerful and is the only one that can make your way perfect and teach you how to fight as he is a man of war (Exodus 15:3).

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.

Psalm84:5

Want to be blessed? There you are.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

The prophecy of the prophet Isaiah was on the birth of a child, a son, who has many titles, and who is Jesus Christ who was born as the Savior of all mankind (Matthew 1:18-25) and who is so powerful (mighty) and can wonderfully counsel those who have believed in him in all life situations. Why not try him by inviting him into your heart to be with you? He is a special guest indeed!

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon the earth that I **desire** beside thee.

My flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Psalm 73:24-28

The Psalmist had that to say regarding God. The Lord God is available to those who desire to be with him; to guide them and counsel them and lastly to receive them in heaven (John 14:1-6) where he inhabits. But for those who choose to be away from him, they will for sure perish. Draw near to God (James 4:7-8, 1 Peter 5:5-7) by faith and trust in him for he will do wonders in your life and you will be a witness to the world on what he has done. If you have God, you have Jesus (John 10:30) as God is and Jesus are one.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work; this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1: 22-25

Surely you need to be blessed in whatever you do. As a youth, do the word and be blessed by God.

There is a wrong notion that as a youth if your parents are Christians then you are okay and safe, or if for instance your father is a Pastor or a Bishop of a church that your life is covered, no. Salvation is an individual issue and is not representative as such. All of us need salvation. The parents and their children are individuals for all have sinned and are short of God's glory and Christ Jesus did not die on the cross for only the elderly but for all mankind. *(*Romans 3: 23; 6: 23 and John 3: 16).

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;
For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 3: 23; 6: 23

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3: 16

From the above Scriptures we find that God has given us - everybody a free gift which carries eternal life. One can take it or leave it, but my humble advice is that you take it. Further assurance of that life is recorded elsewhere (*1 John 5: 11-13).*

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is his Son.
He that hath the Son, hath the life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.
These things I have written unto you that that believe on the name of the son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the names of the Son of God.

1 John 5: 11-13

But I am sure that many people youth included like shortcuts or alternatives in life, but let me tell you, in God we don't have shortcuts but only long cuts which also prove to be the best option in life (Acts 4: 10-12, John 14: 6,Romans 10: 1-4).

Be it known to you all, and to all, the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the stone that was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4: 10-12

In the above scripture we find that Jesus Christ is being referred to as, a stone and that is quite interesting indeed as he is also a Saviour! How can a stone save one? But he is not an ordinary stone but a special stone and is the Lord's doing (1 Peter 2:6-7, Psalm 118:22-23). Let us now go to the Old Testament and see for ourselves yet again in the book of Genesis.

And Jacob went out from Beer-she'-ba, and went toward Har'-an.

And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of

that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

And behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Genesis 28:10-17

From that scripture Jacob who was wiser than his brother Esau as he had some spiritual insight and valued them more than the physical things (Genesis 25:27-34) had an encounter with a particular stone among the other stones at Bethel and the stone connected heaven with the earth. It follows therefore that Jesus Christ is the ladder that leads directly into heaven where God dwells and is referred to as the Mediator (reconciler) between God and mankind (who fell into sin at the Garden of Eden (1 Timothy 2:5-6, Romans 5:12; 3:21-24). The dream of Jacob was but a fore shadow of the rapture of the elect of God into heaven to be with him forever. Therefore, to be without Jesus Christ, is to miss heaven altogether and to be away from God eternally-which is the worst thing that can ever happen to a person.

Jesus Christ told those that had made a personal decision to follow him that important event of being taken up into heaven in the book of John (John 1:35-51; 14:1-3).

I advise you who is a youth to value the salvation of God found in his only begotten Son Jesus Christ and to take a bold step being serious about it and to surrender your life to

him totally. Be sure that without salvation (without Christ Jesus), you are lost forever and your future is doomed. The best decision one can make in life is to be saved and that in itself is wisdom indeed (Proverbs 1:7; 3:13-18, Job 28:28). Let us look at yet another scripture.

And when the Phil-is'-tines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Miz'-peh, the lords of the Phil'-is'-tines went up against Israel. and when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Phil-is'-tines.
And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Phil-is'-tines.
And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him.
And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Phil-is'-tines drew near to battle against Israel: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Phil-is'-tines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Phil-is'-tines**,** and smote them, until they came under Beth-car.

Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezar, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

1 Samuel 7:7-12

In the above scripture we see the prophet Samuel take a stone and call it Ebenezar, which in Hebrew language is 'a stone of help', after God had heard his prayer and had intervened in the battle between the Philistines (Israel's enemy) and the children of Israel whom they went against and the men of Israel were saved and triumphed. So Jesus Christ is a stone of help - a Saviour to us in life against our enemies and he is the only one who can sustain our souls as he is a real help against all odds in life as the psalmist also realized (Psalm 121) and Simon Peter one of Jesus' disciples also reiterated that we be under the mighty hand of God and be sober as well as our enemy is roaring like a lion, seeking whom he can devour (1 Peter 5:6-8). So, we are not safe without surrendering our lives to the Almighty God who is omnipotent and supreme in heaven and on

earth, he being the Creator (Psalm 24:1-2). Be connected to God as all other connections in life will miserably fail you.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14: 6

The above two scriptures points to the fact that we have only one Savior who also is the way to God the Father who is in heaven and his name is Jesus Christ and there is no other. Therefore, we need to believe in him and repent our sins to be saved and to be built by him.

BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

For I bear them record that they have zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for the righteousness to everyone that believeth.

Romans 10: 1-4

From the above scripture it is very clear that merely being zealous of God and not according to the right knowledge of him and his principles and going about living in one's own strength and righteousness is a fallacy and merely a religion and not Christianity. God wants people to be saved and to live by having their faith anchored in God in order to live a life that can please him, living not as religionists but as Christians, that is, having Jesus Christ in them by the Holy Spirit, who God has promised them that believe in his Son.

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are past away: behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

It is only after salvation (conversion to Christ) that people are regenerated and transformed in order to be able to live a Christian/godly life, leaving behind old bad habits (the Adamic nature) and begin to live not after the flesh (the body) but after God's spirit (the Holy Spirit).

Let it be known to you that it is only after one has been converted to Jesus Christ that he/she becomes a new creature as God's workmanship unto good works which

God had ordained before that mankind walk in them (Ephesians 2:1-10) but the first man Adam and his wife Eve fell into sin in the garden of Eden by disobeying God's commandment thereby taking the sinful nature (Genesis 1:26-31, 2:8-3:24) and hence there was a need for a Savior (Romans 3:21-26) but one must acknowledge one's sins to God in a genuine repentance and believing in Christ Jesus as the Lord and Savior (Acts 2:36-38, 13:23-48, Romans 10:6-13). It is only after one has accepted the salvation in Christ Jesus that one is enabled by the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised his disciples (John 14:15-17, Luke 24:36-53, Acts 1:1-14, 2:1-4) to live a Christian life in the Spirit of God being led by the Spirit and not giving a chance for the flesh (body) to lead one which is but carnality and leads to death (Romans 8:1-8).

THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:1-8

Living in the Spirit is only possible in salvation where the Holy Spirit is promised by the Savior to those who believe in him (Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:1-8, John 14:15-17, 26, Acts 2:36-38) and for sure Jesus disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit as he had promised (Acts 2:1-4) and many others that later came to believe in him (Acts 9:1-22, Acts 10:1-48, Acts 8:1-17, Acts 19:1-7).

As a youth, you should know that there are two governments which are spiritual and which govern the world and there are also two rulers and two powers. We have first the government of God where He reigns and also we have the government of the Satan where he also reigns. We have the power of God (God is the most powerful being in heaven and on earth) - the Holy Spirit and we have the evil spirit of Satan. The Holy Spirit is the true spirit, the right spirit and the good spirit. On the other hand, the evil spirit is a wrong spirit, a fake (counterfeit) spirit and a bad (evil) spirit as the name implies. Now the truth is, you must be in one of the governments and in whichever government you are in, automatically you must be governed by a ruler in that government and by the power in that government and you will be somehow willingly/unwillingly do the will of that government. The big question is, in which government are you in? What is your citizenship? Please ponder on this and answer yourself soberly. Another fact, the government you are in now other things being equal, is the government you will be in after this life on earth. So, choose wisely now.

When it comes to choices, I like the God who saved me, whom I serve. He is just, why? He lays all the facts for you and me, then he leaves making of a choice to you and me. He does not force things into someone's throat but put things bare and leave you and me to decide, otherwise people would have had excuses that they were forced to do or not to do a thing by God.

If there was anything like fairness, God is fair. If there is any faithfulness, God is faithful. If there is any justice, God is just. If there is any reliability, God is reliable. If there is any dependence, God is dependable. If there is any truth, God is truth. The list is endless with the good of God *(*Deuteronomy 30: 15-20).

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the Land whither thou goest to posses it.

But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them;

I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to posses it.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing.

Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

In a nutshell, if you are not yet saved (born-again) you must see to it that you are saved. Back to you. Now to say in simple terms, to be saved is to be born again, to be born anew, not as in the first case when one is born in the flesh by one's parent, but in the Spirit by God the Father who is in heaven. Being born by of water and of the Spirit as the scripture says so as to be spiritually alive / active by God's

Spirit and in a position to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:1-6). As sinners without Christ, we are spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1-3, Titus 3:3) but are only made alive/quickened in our spirit if we have accepted the salvation in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4-10) and which enable one to live a holy and righteous life (Colossians 1:3-14, Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7). Jesus Christ is man's perfect example that all people need to emulate who lived a sinless (holy) and righteous life on the earth (John 8:45-47, Acts 10:34-43).

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3: 5-6

All of us were born in the flesh by our parents and are therefore flesh. We must go to God our Creator through his Son Jesus Christ to be born in the Spirit and be spiritual as God is a Spirit. Today many youths are languishing in sin because they have not come to a personal knowledge of

Jesus Christ the Messiah who has all the solutions in life and therefore, they are in thirst for the truth (Revelation 21:5-6, 22:6-7). The youths a majority of them have not come to the realization that they are living in the last days and that they need to run to Christ Jesus for their myriad of problems:- Pornography and immorality, alcoholism and smoking among other social ills to be sorted out, that is, to have their souls healed - (Jeremiah 8:7, Isaiah 55:6-7). Some do think their problems can be solved by the internet as we are in a technologically advanced era information wise. Far from the truth as the solution to man's life is right with us as it was with the Israelites (Jeremiah 8:22). God has given to mankind a lasting solution in life and that is Jesus Christ who is his only begotten Son (John 3:14-15, 31-36) but many including the youths are adamant and unnecessarily proud and do not want to acknowledge their sinful nature in repentance to the Lord (Luke 13:1-5, 1 John 1: 8-10, Acts 13:38-30) but Christ the Lord is the one that gives everlasting life to be lived in heaven after this life on the earth (John 5:24, 1 John 5:9-13).

Because Jesus Christ gave his life for mankind when he went to the cross and died a most painful and shameful death and on the third day he was resurrected by God, and there is no point for anyone to be burdened by the luggage of sin but all need to come to the cross in genuine repentance and by faith in him who died and later resurrected, to have rest in one's soul (Romans 3:25, Matthew 11:28-30).

Chapter 2

The Right Rough Road

It is important for a youth to choose the right path/road in life from the outset so as to lead him or her to the right destiny in life as God had purposed. The scripture teaches us that Jesus Christ is the way (John 14:6). It is by taking that way and walking in it can a youth display in life the fruit of repentance which is righteousness and which God expects from all of us including the youth (Matthew 3:1-10, Titus 2:11-14). It is all for God's glory and purpose (1 John 2:4, John 15:7-8, Matthew 6:9-10). Even in this digital/dotcom era a youth must walk analogously according to God's ways as there is nothing like modernism in Christianity in true Christianity as the word of God remains steadfast as it abides forever and does not change just as God Himself he does not change (Jeremiah 6:13-16, Matthew 21:33, Hebrews 13:8). Therefore, one cannot try to change from living a righteous and holy life by deviating from God's word which is the truth (Revelation 22:18-19, Matthew 7:21-27). One must continue in obeying the word of God in whatever situation one finds himself / herself in as conforming to the world

can only lead one directly into hell (eternal judgment) but by obeying God always can definitely lead one to heaven where there is eternal: peace, love joy, name it (The best of the best – the best of life)—(Romans 12:1-2, 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Corinthians 2:1-9, Revelation 21:1-8; 22:12-15). If one has decided to follow God fully by accepting Jesus Christ to be one's Lord and Savior the world will mock, hate and reject one but it is okay with God as one will be safe in His hands (John 16:33; 17:3-20, 2 Timothy 3:10-12, Malachi 3:14-18, John 14:1-6).

Therefore, as a youth don't be deceived by the Devil who has deceived mankind time immemorial that one can disobey God and go away with it (unpunished) as God will judge all disobedience (Genesis 3:1-19, Romans 3:23; 6:23).

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:6

It is God's plan that after living on earth one need go to the Father to be with him for ever. You can choose to be with God after death right here on earth before you are no more

on earth, by believing in Christ and living with him from henceforth.

Earlier we find Jesus saying that he is the door of the sheep and is a good shepherd who gives his life for the sheep (John 10:7-11) meaning he is the one that will lead one to God after he has given his life on the cross to save mankind. It is common knowledge that a shepherd leads his sheep to green pastures and later takes them safely back home. Equally in the same manner those who believe in Christ Jesus follow his footsteps in life and at Christ's return (at rapture of the Church) he safely takes them to their home where they are destined in heaven (John 14:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:47-58, 2 Corinthians 5:1-8, Philippians 3:17-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18).

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the lord, make his paths straight.

And the same John had his raiment of Camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan,

And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sad'-du-cees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.

Matthew 3:1-10

Just as John the Baptist preached repentance even today God has raised many preachers proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's kingdom and the question is; have you repented in life by confessing of your sins to God and

believing in his Son Jesus Christ to save you? Stop being just religious as those Pharisees and Sadducees who John the Baptist rebuked. Be saved in order to have the capability to live a righteous life that pleases God.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;
Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God is with you to save you as Jesus Christ already died for you and rose up again so as to save you from your sins so that you can live a holy and righteous life and hoping for his coming back to take you to heaven. He is the only hope for you and me and every body else.

We have a road, actually a highway which the Lord God has set before all who want to enter heaven and be with him forever in his kingdom after their life here on earth. Therefore, for one to start walking in it, one first need a new birth, a spiritual birth also known as regeneration or salvation. (Matthew 7: 13b Isaiah 35: 8; John 3: 1-8,).
This chapter is concerned with the right rough road being considered right as it is the only way to God the Father who is in heaven as his dwelling place (John 14:1-6). It is equally considered rough as well as it is full of obstacles on the way (road) but there is no cause for alarm as in it one will not be alone but with an overcomer who overcomes and calms all situations and is faithful and makes one also to be an overcomer. Read on.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

And at the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship.
And there were also with him other little ships.
And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.
And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master carest thou not that we perish?
And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Mark 4:35-39

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that

through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their life time subject to bondage.

For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.

Hebrews 2:14-18

You can read also Revelation 1:9-18

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5

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.

1 John 4:4

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nic-o-de'-mus, a ruler of the Jews:

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nic-o-de'-mus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, canst not tell whence it cometh, wither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 3: 1-8

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ.
Now when they heard this, they were prickled in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:36-38

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the highway of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the way fairing men, through fools, shall not err therein.

Isaiah 35: 8

Now one may ask, "Why is the road rough?" as I have called it rough. It is rough because of many obstacles on this road in the form of opposition and persecution one is faced with. The good thing is that it is the right road. The saints of old went through it and saints now must pass through it, as there is no alternative route to heaven and no short cut (this one is a long road – a highway). Please the following Scriptures to see for yourself. (2 Timothy 3: 12 – 17, 4: 1-15, Matthew 14: 3-12, 16: 24-27, Acts 6: 8-7: 60, 4: 1-21, 14: 19-22, Hebrews 11: 32-39 and 2 Peter 1: 1-11). But the end of the road / highway is very bright (glorious), as we are going to read in the next chapter. Now there is a totally different road and a wrong one. It is a wrong way and the end thereof is absolute darkness (Matthew 7: 13b, Proverbs 12: 15, 14: 12 & 16: 2).

…….: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Matthew 7: 13b

Many youths love easy life devoid of obstacles / restrictions and end in the wide road which leads to destruction, but the narrow road is the right road though there are many obstacles/challenges but it leads to everlasting life in heaven which is the right place/destination for people
(Matthew 25:31 – 46).

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Proverbs 12: 15

There is away which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14: 12

Be wise, don't be a fool, don't assume things and don't use your head (think), be sure where you are heading (Romans 10: 1-4, Acts 4: 11-12, 17: 30-31).

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

Proverb 16:17

As a youth preserve your soul by departing from evil and your way will remain well kept.

FBRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

Romans 10:1-4

In order to be saved one have to believe in Christ Jesus to be counted righteous before God.

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 17:30-31

Repentance is a must to be made righteous with God and to escape the coming judgment.

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:11-12

Salvation is only found in Jesus Christ.

For God, so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

God loves us so much and expects us to believe in his Son and be saved thereby and have eternal life.

THERE were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate mingled with their sacrifices.

And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans, because they suffered such things?

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Si-lo'-am fell, and slew them, think ye they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13:1-5

And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 18:9-14

All the above two scriptures talk of people who exalt themselves above others thinking they are righteous. Now self righteousness is dangerous in life. As a youth stop looking upon others thinking you are better than them but rather, look at yourself and humble and repent as the publican. What God expects from all people is repentance, turning away from sin and going back to him by faith for forgiveness and restoration as man fell in the garden of Eden when he went ahead and disobeyed God's instruction thereby sinning against God (Genesis 2:8-17; 3:1-6) and that is why God has been calling for repentance from the Old Testament period to the New Testament period and these scriptures following are but just a few of the many, many, many scriptures touching on the same.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:
But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 1:18-20

If you are willing to come to the Lord and reason then go ahead in obedience and repent to him. But if not, woe unto you as it will not be well with you as you will definitely perish.

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:6-7

Normally for people to return to God who is holy, they do so in repentance. A time will come when God is very far

away and cannot be found, for example when one dies without having returned to God in repentance or when the Lord comes to take away his holy Church from the earth and one is still refusing and rebelling against God because of impatience. Without Christ Jesus in one's life, and is still continuing in a life, one is still continuing in a life of wickedness and unrighteousness whether one likes it or not. Please note that God is very ready to forgive/pardon ALL sin if one genuinely repents.

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thine youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.
Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 11:9, 12:13-14

The above advice is not blanket in that it is conditional, with strings attached, so as a youth live with great care as

judgment is coming ahead of you on all that you ever did said and thought in life. All are to be judged the great and the small (Revelation 20:11-15). Be saved and walk / live in the Spirit and not in the flesh; pleasing God and not displeasing him (Romans 8:1-8, Galatians 6:7-8).

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Then shall he say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or a thirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matthew 25:31-46

God's intention when he created man was that when he lived in obedience he would not die (Genesis 2:7-17) but man disobeyed and death was inevitable (Genesis 3:1-19). Read also the earlier scripture Matthew 25:31-46 and note verse 34 and 41 on the judgment by the Lord for the righteous and for the unrighteous. The righteous will go into eternal life in heaven and the unrighteous into everlasting punishment in hell (verse 46) also read Revelation 20:15 on the state of the unrighteous. So to be precise heaven and hell is real just as day and night.

Now the truth is that one cannot be righteous by one's own strength. One need God in life as he is ever righteous. One can be reconciled back to God if one believes in his Son Jesus so that he/she is made the righteousness of God in him (2 Corinthians 5:21). The life on earth is short and one

need use it as a platform to prepare oneself for eternity in heaven by surrendering one's life to Christ Jesus.

Without Christ one remains a sinner the rest of one's life and will face the terrible consequences as recorded in the Scripture. Now let me direct you to the following scriptures just in reminding you.

If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: **and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.**

Ecclesiastes 11:3

In the above scripture the trees God is talking about refers to people and that is confirmed by other scriptures as follows: Matthew 3:7-10; 7:15-20, Luke 6:43-45 and Judges 9.

As a youth, take time and make a decision where you will want to spend after this life (and which is eternal, of course). Decide now whether you will want to be in heaven where God dwells; by repenting of all your sins to him and accepting Jesus Christ to come into your life and save you, and then begin to live a holy and righteous life led by

God's spirit. If not, be sure to find yourself in hell where Satan and all sinners are going to be in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 20:11-15). It means what you do in this life determines your final destiny and that fact cannot be changed as it is not reversable as you can see above text in bold letters. When the time for your departure arrives, your destiny will depend on where your life was while on earth either in Jesus Christ or outside him; if was in Christ you are destined to heaven but if not, your destination is hell.

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Hebrews 9:27

There will come a time for death (physical death) for everyone of us and when it comes one must fall on one side. It can be either on the side of God (to go to heaven) or on the side of Satan (to go to hell). For that reason, you can see for yourself that it is obvious where one will land, one will have to remain there eternally and that means it is irreversible – hence the need to make the right decision now before it is too late.

LET us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

For we which have believed do enter into his rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, and God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

And in this place again, if they shall enter into my rest.

Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Hebrews 4:1-7

It is a dangerous thing to be found in unbelief by refusing to believe in Jesus Christ as such a one cannot enter into God's rest in heaven.

The Israelites who were found in unbelief all ended dying in the wilderness and never entered the promised land Canaan (Numbers 14:1-38). The same principle apply to the Gentiles globally as they too cannot enter heaven if they remain unrepentant and unbelieving (Revelation 21:6-8). But God who is both gracious and merciful has given us a chance again today.

You have read the word of God and now need to make a choice. Your choice will determine your destiny so be wise as you are going to read in this scripture.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit that they rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 14:13

Get to know that your works will follow you when you die. So how are your works, are they righteous or unrighteous (wicked)? Only the righteous in the Lord who continued in

holiness and righteousness will rest with the Lord when they leave the earth (Luke 16:19-31). As for me I have chosen God's rest and pursue righteous living so as to rest after the hustles and bustles of this life.

How about you? For further reading on righteousness you can read my book 'In Pursuit of Righteousness'.

By refusing to choose Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Saviour now by repenting of your sins and believing in him and inviting him into your life for your salvation and eternity in the kingdom of God in heaven, then the only option left is that you will slide into the Tribulation and the Great Tribulation period where you will accept and follow the antichrist and finally find yourself at the Great white throne where you will be judged by Christ who you rejected (John 5:22-23) and you will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented there eternally. Read the following scriptures and be enlightened the more and do the needful.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 5:17-18

The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:35-36

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him will ye receive.

John 5:39-43

In the above scripture Jesus Christ was addressing the Jews who had rejected him and who would later accept and receive the antichrist (The Beast). But get to know that he at the same time was addressing all those that will reject him whose destiny is the lake of fire as you will read shortly. It is only in the name of Jesus one is saved and have everlasting life in heaven being with God the Father where he dwells.

AND I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.
And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.
And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and **all the world wondered after the beast.**

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: **and they worshipped the beast,** saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?

And **all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

If any man have an ear, Let him hear.

Revelation 13:1-4, 8-9

Apostle John saw the beast (the anti-Christ) appear out of the sea during the beginning of the Tribulation period and came to rule the whole world as he was received and worshipped by all whose names were not written in the book of life of the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ). If you don't receive Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior and to worship and serve him now (Matthew 4:8-10) you will receive the anti-Christ believing in him and worship him- there is no middle ground. It is either Christ or the Beast, you must choose now before it is too late.

Get it clear, Jesus Christ and God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are to dwell where they belong eternally in heaven. But Satan, the anti-Christ and the false prophet as

well as those who rejected Christ are to dwell in the lake of fire eternally (Revelation 20:1-10).

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

You can avoid being cast into the Lake of fire by only repenting genuinely your sins to God and believing in his Son Jesus Christ for salvation and living henceforth in

holiness and righteousness being assisted by the Holy Spirit (The Comforter and helper) who God has promised to give those who believe in his Son. I recommend to you to read my other book entitled ‘The Realities of Heaven and Hell’ to see for yourself the life in those places and make a wise decision where you would love to be after this life on earth forever and ever.

CHAPTER 3

The Youth and Relationships.

When it comes to relationships there is one which is outstanding all the rest in life and that is one's relationship with his / her Creator.

It would be a disaster not to have a good and close relationship with God, as God is everything to us all; youths included.

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

You may have many friends but all are nothing compared to one friend that the scripture says is closer than a brother. That friend is none other than Jesus Christ the Son of the living God. This friend is so loving and caring to the extent that he gave his own life because of you and me. Therefore, you must first of all as a priority have him in your life.

Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

But God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6-8

That is why we must befriend Jesus by repenting of our sins and by faith inviting him into our lives as Lord and Savior. He is the only one who cannot leave us or forsake us as long as we obey his commandments which will show him that we truly are friendly as he is, (Deuteronomy 31:8, John 15:14) God's love (agape love) surpasses all other love.

At this juncture let me give you a further illustration that shows how important it is to be a friend of Jesus (John 11:1-4).

Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live:

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 11:18-26

Prior to his death Lazarus had believed in Jesus and that is how he befriended him and therefore his friend just as Martha and Mary said after Lazarus their brother had died after getting sick (John 11:1-4). Jesus Christ as both the resurrection and the life is going to raise up all those who befriended him and continued closely to relate with him,

when he comes back to take his Church into heaven to be with him for ever (John 14:1-3). If you still doubt remember he had already demonstrated it to the world by raising up Lazarus from the dead (John 11:25-44). Jesus Christ is such a: loving, faithful, gracious and merciful friend and one cannot afford not to befriend Him.

The relationship of the youth with other people need to be a healthy one in thoughts, speech and conduct as they are part of any society and hence will need to socially relate properly with people of different ages from children to the youth themselves and to the adults. God has given a right way of relating with each other among the youth and the youth with the others especially adults. We are going to look at some of those ways.

Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:32

In the above scripture we find that a hoary head is one that has grey or white hair and that we should rise up before such a one and also honor the face of the old man in the

fear of God. As a youth, I believe you are going to do likewise, as the Lord Himself has said so.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:5

Many youths have failed that test as many are proud and like arguments with the elderly and cannot give say a hand to them and yet others on a path cannot give way to an elderly and expect to be instead be given way. So common in the world we are living today. Some youth lack humility even amongst themselves yet we are told they be subject one to another. It is evident even in sitting; one can occupy a larger area than necessary not minding about other fellow youths, others push away those sitting next to them. Respect is lacking and love is lacking.

Let me now give a practical example on the need for the youths to be submissive to the elderly. I do recall very well that on a Sunday when I was walking back home from a Sunday service and when I reached some residential estate

I heard loud disco music and thought it was coming from one of the houses but I was mistaken as when I was passing a church building near the road to my amazement I realized the loud music was originating there and felt very sad and disturbed in my spirit and I saw the need to go into that compound to enquire what the hell was going on. Inside the compound I went straight inside the church and saw many boys and girls who were dancing inside there and there was not a single adult who was present. Then I warned them to stop doing such an abomination in the house of God or else they will face God's wrath. I also asked if their pastor knew of what they were doing inside there and they said the pastor is aware of them being there. Then I left and still they adamantly continued with the disco music and dancing.

A month or two later when I came back from travelling upcountry my wife told me that something strange had happened in that church and that two elders in that church died on one night. I then realized it was God's judgment most likely on the leadership, as they had allowed the youths to misbehave in God's house as they should have been around at least one elder if the pastor was busy away

so as to supervise and see if all was well with the youths who remained in the church that Sunday and to advise accordingly when they tried to misbehave. God may have heard sympathy on the youths who were ignorant probably due to poor leadership there and punished the elders instead. I also remembered the case of Prophet Elisha and some youths touching on bad behavior to those in authority (2 Kings 2:23-24). You can read the following scriptures as well on God's judgment (1 Samuel 2:12-36, 1 Samuel 4:1-18, 1 Samuel 28:1-25, 1 Samuel 31:1-10). I have given those scriptures to show to you that what happened to those church elders was God's judgment. Youths I repeat, Be carefully how you relate to the elderly.

REBUKE not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;
The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

1Timothy 5:1-2

As a youth have you considered old men as a father, old women as a mother and also your fellow youth as a brother or sister with a clean conscience?

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

Titus 2:6

I MADE a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Job 31:1

The above scripture is touching on one's social integrity. Job saw that he had to make a personal covenant with a member of his body (his eyes). I think Job was wise enough in doing so and you as a youth you need to do the same for obvious reasons, as a safeguard because to look at the opposite sex for unnecessary long time is a snare and one can end up with thoughts and imaginations which may not be healthy for one, as you are going to read in the following scriptures.

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

And if thy right eye offends thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy

members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 5: 28-29

From the above warning we realize it is not easy to pluck out one's eye, so the solution is to make a covenant with the member not to cross the border or trespass by taking much time looking at women to avoid probably ending with a lusting eye.

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:
To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.
Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

Proverbs 6:23-25

It seems that king David had not yet made a covenant with his eyes as brother Job (Job 31:1), this we see in the second book of Samuel the prophet in the eleventh chapter in verses one and two The result was tragic. He went against the commandment of God (Matthew 5:28; 19:9). If you

fully submit yourself to God, he can give you the power to overcome. (James 4:7). Read the next scripture.

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

Genesis 39:7

From the above we see that it is the wife of Joseph's master that cast her eyes upon Joseph and lusted at him and went further and told Joseph to lie with her.

But Joseph because he feared God and submitted himself to him, he overcame that temptation, literary ran away from the woman and sinned not.

Let us look at one very good example of the need for a youth to have a good relationship for the sake of God his/her Creator and to maintain a right relationship with God.

AND Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Pot'-i-phar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ish'-mae-lites, which had brought him down thither.

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.
And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.
And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.
And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptians house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.
And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not aught he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well-favored.
And it came to pass, after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.
But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;
There is none greater in this house than I, neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his

wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

Genesis 39:1-12

From the above account we come to learn many good lessons therein and which we are to look at one by one. We learn that the boy Joseph was with God and God did prosper all that he did with his hands as is the norm with God for those that fear him (Deuteronomy 28: 1, 8-10). For that reason alone, his master made him not so much a servant but an overseer- a small boss in his household. Before we go further, one to be with God, one must have surrendered one's life to him and it won't be difficult to God to make you some boss. (Deuteronomy 28:1; 13)- if

we read further the book of Genesis in chapter 41 Joseph ended being a big boss in Egypt next to the level of Pharaoh the king. (Genesis 41:40-43) Trouble started when Joseph's master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph (verse 7) but Joseph did the wise thing by refusing out rightly (verse 8) because Joseph feared God more than any one else and saw the trap of sin (verse 9 & 10) Joseph refused not only to lie with his master's wife but to be with her. Although Potiphar's wife thought she found a golden opportunity to have Joseph lie with her as there was no one in the house save for her and Joseph, her advances which were like attempted rape on the youth, failed miserably when the youth left his garment with her and fled out of the house. I see these days youths of the opposite sex like unnecessarily to sit next to/ beside each other and even to be alone but they don't see the enemy can tempt them and they fall in sin- the flesh is weak, don't ever give it an opportunity as it may cause havoc. First of all, control your eyes on the opposite sex (Genesis 3:6, 1 John 2:15-16) Also read what happened to King David (2 Samuel 11:1-5) - Be a wise youth as Joseph, Joseph literally fled from trouble. Read now these scriptures.

Flee fornication. Every sin a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

1 Corinthians 6:18

And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

Ecclesiastes 7:26

As a youth you must be in God and totally committed to him in true fear and reverence and not to joke/play about with sin. Stay away to stay safe in total abstinence until when you are wedded or wed officially before God and his witnesses.

My son, attend unto my wisdom and bow thine ear to my understanding:
That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

For the lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:
But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.
Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.
Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are movable, that thou canst not know them.
Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.
Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house;
Lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:
Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors be in the house of a stranger;
And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed.
And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;
And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

Proverbs 5:1-14

If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

Deuteronomy 28:58-59

Look at the above dreadful statement which I do believe is inclusive of HIV Aids; so be careful for everything.

Just by the fact that you are a youth, it does not mean that you must associate yourself by just any body but you need to choose those that you relate with so that you avoid the danger of being impacted negatively in life. You are going to see one such example as well as many advices in the scriptures which point to the above fact that you have to choose the right people who you want to associate yourself with.

And Ab'-sa-lom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and A-hith'-o-phel with him.

And it came to pass, when Hu'-shai the Ar'-chite, David's friend, was come unto Ab'-sa-lom, that Hu '- shai said to Ab'– sa – lom, God save the king, God save the king.

And Ab'-sa-lom said to Hu'-shai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? Why wentest thou not with thy friend?

And Hu'-shai said unto Ab'-sa-lom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel choose, his will I be and with him will I abide.

And again, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

Then said Ab'-sa-lom to A-hith'-o-phel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

And A-hith'-o-phel, said to Ab'-sa-lom, **Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house;** and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

So they spread Ab'-sa-lom a tent upon the top of the house; and Ab'-sa-lom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

2 Samuel 16:15-22

As you can see in the above scripture, Absalom the son of David associated with a bad person by the name Ahithophel and went ahead to heed the advice of this wicked fellow and did an abomination in that land of Israel by sleeping with his father's concubines, something which is unimaginable and a total public shame. Now look at what the scriptures say:

Be not deceived**: evil communications corrupt good manners.**

Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

Yes, don't deal with wicked people as they are going to definitely corrupt your behavior. Absalom ended as a social disgrace by involving in an immoral act. So awake and be wise. You must see to it that you have the knowledge of God and to live righteously.

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3

Yes, that, is the true blessing from God and which brings prosperity (true prosperity) of righteousness which is but good fruit only/specifically. But for that to happen in your life, avoid the counsel of the ungodly and delight yourself in the commandments of God meditating on them daily and fruitful you will be.

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Ephesians 5:6-7, 11

There is a lot of deception on this earth and therefore you must be careful with people you meet lest you be a partaker of disobedient acts and receive the wrath of God. Stay away from all forms of the work of darkness (forms of disobedience to the commandments/laws of God). So what must you do? Read on.

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:17

Walk with the wise who live righteously and who can give you good counsel.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a company of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 13:12

Yes, it is true. If you walk with fools you can end up doing and saying foolish things which is destructive to you and others.

THROUGH desire a man having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

Proverbs 18:1

You have to separate yourself with all that is ungodly and you will begin to get wisdom from the godly.

It is true that you must first not only desire but to choose to separate yourself for the Lord and then seek to intermeddle with all wisdom by associating yourself with wise men and not fools, men of higher minds (those connected with heaven) as yourself, that is, those born of the spirit of God and then you can find yourself sharpened in the wisdom of God.

A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Proverbs 27:12

Sure, you must be a special man, a wise man and not a simple man, a foolish man. Only the wise can foresee the evil and avoid it and be safe. The foolish man just meets the evil head long and get hurt.

Integrity

Integrity is a very important aspect in life and which many do lack in the world to day and which the scriptures has said much about in encouraging people to live a life of integrity.

This, you are going to find out very soon. Now what does the word integrity mean? Integrity is the quality of being honest in all your doings having strong moral principles. The result of lack of it leads to such vices as corruption and which involves the act of paying bribes or receiving bribes among other immoral or evil acts. Corruption is the moral: decay/rottenness in a society and eats it up slowly but surely. I am not afraid to say that from what I have witnessed and continue to witness, have heard and continue to hear and have read and continue to read in this country, corruption has permeated almost every where and has now reached an alarming proportion / level. No wonder we

continue to have so many calamities and insecurity as most likely God is not happy with us just as he was not happy with the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:17-21). Be assured on this, God has already come and confirmed the corruption in this country and we are just living by the grace of God as we have not repented of this as a nation.

Those cities were not spared God's judgment and we as a nation cannot be spared. If we don't repent as a nation or those in authorities in all the various Institutions don't fight the corruption at all levels boldly and decisively the amount of damage in this country will be tremendous.

I take this opportunity to advise our dear youths not to blindly support/follow politicians who some of them dish out money to them which they need not take. Some of the politicians are but serving their selfish ambition/interests and not yours as you may think and may not be good role models, as preach water and drink wine (that is, they don't follow/walk their talk).

I now come to the scriptures and will begin to dwell on the need of integrity followed later by the denunciation of corruption as a vice, in any society.

That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherit the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deuteronomy 16:20

God is a God of justice and expects from us a justified life (righteous life)

The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

Proverbs 11:3

If you are an upright youth your integrity will guide you if you are not, you will destroy yourself.

The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish; but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

Proverbs 10:3

If you live righteously the Lord will take care of you and what you have.

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. Walk uprightly and do righteousness speaking also the truth.

And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever.

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

Psalm 41:12-13

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

Proverbs 10:9

Surety is in walking uprightly.

He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly, he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

Isaiah 33:15-16

It is a big blessing to walk righteously and to speak uprightly and to hate all forms of evil.

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?
The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Proverbs 20:6-7

Be faithful and just and not give lip service and even your children God will bless them after you.
As I said earlier, many are not of integrity and that is why in verse 6 above the question is who can find a faithful man? Many would say this or that about themselves but their integrity (faithfulness) remains questionable.

I WILL sing of mercy and judgement: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.
I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.
A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

Psalm 101:1-4

Hate greatly all evil and be perfect and God will be your frequent visitor.

Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Proverbs28:6

Uprightness God upholds in all situations – in poverty or in riches.

Corruption, Corruption.

Thou shalt not wrest judgement; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 16:19

Taking a bribe is corruption and wrests judgment (interferes) and make one become a fool.

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase.

Proverbs13:11

Even in wealth acquisition one need to get it rightly through one's sweat and not through short-cuts like bribery, conman ship, rackets and such other evil/criminal activities. You will easily come to lose it if gotten the wrong way. But if gotten rightly it will increase and be in abundance.

WOE unto them that decree unto unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed;
To turn aside the needy from judgement, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!.

Isaiah 10:1-2

Oppression of any sort to the poor, widows and the orphans God detests – so keep away from such.

And judgement is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.

Isaiah 59:14-15

That is how corruption is bad. It removes equity among people such that people are not treated equally bringing impartiality and makes the truth as a fallen thing and justice is not forthcoming. The truth seems not to work and those who want to be faithful (truthful) are victimized (become a prey). All these of course are in the open before a holy and just God and God is displeased, why? Because God's expects judgement mete on the offenders.

The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Proverbs 21:6

It is very dangerous to try to get things by lying.

Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right.

Proverbs16:8

Get everything in the right way – be it Education, Employment, Wealth, name it.

For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.

Amos 5:12

God knows all that you do so be careful in whatever you do.

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

Proverbs 15:27

Don't be a greedy 'pig'. Hate unnecessary / unjustified gifts for your own good.

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Isaiah 5:20-21

Are you wise in your own eyes and prudent in your own sight? Be so only in God – God wise, according to God's standards and not your standard as God's standards are perfect.

Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves; every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Isaiah 1:23

My advice is this: Walk uprightly and do righteousness in this wicked generation and God will reward you for it. It is not a very tough thing to do but an easy one. Let your No remain No on corruption and don't fear anyone but God (James 5:12, Matthew 10:26-28, Proverbs 29:25).

Now let me give you a list of some that walked in their integrity corruption free (Zero tolerance to corruption) in a corrupt world.

1. Moses

And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: **I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them**

Numbers 16:15

2. Noah

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

These are the generations of Noah: **Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.**

Genesis 6:5-9

Noah was just and perfect and walked with God. That to me is marvelous.

3. Lot

And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

2 Peter2:7-8

God delivered Lot who hated evil and stayed away from it.

4. Samuel

Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? And I will restore it you.

And they said, **Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hath thou taken aught of any man's hand.**

1 Samuel 12:3-4

The faithful prophet and priest Samuel.

5. Elisha

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but I Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

But he said, **As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.**

2 Kings 5:15-16

Prophet Elisha hated unjustified gift and could not bulge. Just as I said earlier (advised) let your no remain no, period. Zero tolerance to bribes (corruption).

6. Paul

HAVING therefore these promises dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Receive us; **we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.**

2 Corinthians 7:1-2

That was Apostle Paul speaking to the church at Corinth regarding how he and his colleagues (fellow workers) walked before the church. In summary a youth need to live a holy life.

My son, keep thy father's commandments, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

So he that goeth into his neighbor's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

But **whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.**

A wound and a dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Keep my commandments, and live and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

That they may keep thee from the stranger woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

For at the window of my house I looked through my casement.

And beheld among the simple ones, **I discerned among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding,**

Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

In the twilight in the evening, in the black and dark night.

And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of a harlot, and subtile of heart.

(she is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house.

Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner)

So **she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,**

I have peace offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows.

Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and **I have found thee I have decked my bed** with coverings of tapestry, with curved works, **with fine linen of Egypt.**

I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with love.

For the good man is not at home, he is gone along journey:

He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.

With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare and knoweth not that it is for his life.
Hearken unto me therefore O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.
Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.
For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.
Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 6:20-7:27

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:
But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.
And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 5:27-30

The above two scriptures are advices and warnings by God the Father and God the Son respectively how as a youth (a boy or a girl) should conduct one self and which you must heed to save your precious soul (life). Read also alongside them the following scriptures: Genesis 3:1-19, Romans 6:23, Galatians 6:7-8, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Please take note of the following:

- Make the habit not to be staring at a member of the opposite sex so as not to be lured/ attracted to any beauty countenance (Job 31:1)
- Be very cautious of any sweet talk from the opposite sex as depicts danger and death trap and can easily be lies from the Devil.
- Be wary of any fancy/ sensual/ unholy dressing by a member of the opposite sex as entails ulterior ill motive by the wearer.

- Be careful on any member of the opposite sex with strong/ powerful cosmetic or perfume on.
- Be well informed in advance that sexual sin is not only slavery (is addictive), but a sucker as it will surely suck life out of you.
- Let it sink in you that all sexual sin is punishable by God and also can lead to death as well so,
- Flee away from it (1 Corinthians 6:18). Avoid all compromising places and situations in life. In summary a youth need to maintain a holy and respectable relationship with all those one comes into contact with just as the Scriptures says.

CHAPTER 4

The Youth and Authorities

Get to know that those not obeying the authorities in place are in rebellion and are controlled by the spirit of rebellion which is the spirit of Satan (a very dangerous spirit). The youths should avoid strikes and demonstrations which usually culminates into violence at some point and the resultant consequences which are not pleasing at all. Always strive to obey the rules of the Institution you are in eg. School, College or University. If there are any issues that need be sorted out better have a dialogue with those concerned such as the Head of the faculty, class or the Administration. If not solved find out the necessary higher authority and forward the same to that authority. Such acts like throwing of stones to the police officers or on moving vehicles or barricading of roads and engaging in running battles with police officers as well as shop looting and destruction of Institution's property and so forth is criminal and most unacceptable and the consequences are such as getting hurt, danger of being run down by a moving vehicle, getting arrested and convicted and serving a jail term, penalties on damages on destroyed property (to be

borne by parents) as well as the possibility of expulsion from the Institution, the closure of the Institution and the resultant wastage of learning time, among many other after effects. The youth need to have respect to all people be they in authority or not and to be obedient too. Before going further, let us look at one example to see the effects of rebellion.

NOW Kor'-ah, the son of Iz'-har, the son of Ko'-hath, the son of Levi, and Da'-than and A-bi'-ram, the sons of E-li'-ab, and On, the son of Pe'-leth, sons of Reuben, took men:
And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:
And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?
And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:
And he spake unto Kor'-ah and unto all his company, saying, Even tomorrow the LORD will show who are his,

and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

This do; Take you censers, Kor'-ah, and all his company;

And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you ye sons of Levi.

And Moses said unto Kor'-ah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi:

Seemeth it but a small thing unto you that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them?

And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?

For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?

And Moses sent to call Da'-than and A-bi'-ram, the sons of E-li'-ab: which said, We will not come up: Is it a small

thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up.

And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

And Moses said unto Kor'-ah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow:

And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron.

And Kor'-ah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,
Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.
And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?
And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Kor'-ah, Da'-than, and A-bi'-ram.
And Moses rose up and went unto Da'-than and A-bi'-ram; and the elders of Israel followed him.
And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.
So they gat up from the tabernacle of Kor'-ah, Da'-than, and A-bi'-ram, on every side: and Da'-than and A-bi'-ram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.
And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

If those men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

And the earth opened up her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Kor'-ah, and all their goods.

They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Numbers 16:1-33

As you have seen above, the consequence of rebellion can turn out to be that bad. So, stay away from rebellion.

Leaving the Youth aside (the students), let me now turn to the Administrators of the Institutions where they are learning, be they Universities or Colleges or Secondary

schools who on their part need to share part of the blame on students' unrest to some extent.

Many of the unrests by students can be avoided if those involved in the administration of those Institutions are sensitive to all the issues raised by students and look at them keenly and quickly attend in solving them and if not necessary to give adequate/justifiable reason for not acting on them instead of handling them casually, brushing them aside or wishing them away, as that is simply setting a time bomb which will definitely explode and do much damage to those Institutions.

The students are no longer small children and are youths and young adults and sometimes are even adults (in the case of Universities) and must be heard and handled with care and dignity and their grievances need not be left unattended to.

My humble advice is that if possible each Institution have at least one meeting in each semester or College or School term for the students to meet their lectures or teachers including the Administrators like the Deputy Vice Chancellor or Dean of students, the Principal, Institution's Counsellor or Chaplain and to hear what the students have

for them both good and bad and likewise the Administrators say what new programme or changes that are to be introduced and how they will be introduced and the reasons for doing so. That way, 0can bring a more conducive environment for learning in those Institutions.

The youth just as other people, need to obey those who are in power – the leaders who rule over them. The Authorities (the leaders) need to be respected. It is in line with God's will, same also with respecting old men and women. When I talk of respect, it just means that and not fear. Only God is to be feared. God needs to be both respected and feared. On mankind respect is two way and not necessarily attached to age alone. The following is a guide.

1. Generally

In general, we are going to look at the following Scriptures in respect to God and men in general (Matthew 10:28-31, Romans 13:7, 1 Peter 2:17 1 Peter 3:14).

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.
But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:28-31

There is need to fear only God and not men as a youth know that God is supreme (Acts 4:13-20).

Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due: custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Romans 13:7

Honor all men. Love the brotherhood, Fear God. Honor the King.
But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

1 Peter 3:14

2. The elderly

Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:32

Many youths have filed here because they do not fear God to leave a seat for the elderly in a public transport or at home.

3. The parents.

On respect to our parents we have the following: (Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20 and Genesis 49:1-7).

As a youth, get to know that it is possible for your parents to curse you and you get a curse. Therefore, don't offend your parents (father or mother) because God has placed them over you to take care of you and to look at your welfare which includes discipline.

Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Exodus 20:12

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Ephesians 6:1-3

The above commandment is the same as in Exodus 20:12. It is the commandment of God and it has a promise attached to it, if you will obey. If you do obey your parents, expect a good and long life. The obedience expected from you is as long as it is in the Lord (verses 1). If the parents want you to do anything outside the Lord (any sin), you can refuse doing that. This same principle we are going to read elsewhere in Scripture. I know you could be wondering the above scriptures are talking of children and not the youth and you could say "with me I am a youth". Children or a child for that matter begin from birth as a baby, to a small child, to a youth up to an adult. Even in adulthood, you are still a child (only you are now a big child) of so and so (your parents) and only your name

has changed because of your physical development and so on and you are now addressed as son or daughter of so and so.

Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:20

AND Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.
Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.
Reuben, thou art my first-born, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:
Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.
Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations, O my soul, come not thou in to their secret; unto their assembly, mine honor, be not thou united:

for in their anger they slew a man and in their self-will they digged down a wall.
Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

Genesis 49:1-7

The above scripture we see how Jacob was giving a prophecy over his children (sons) and in the above instance he was actually cursing them for their wrong deeds (sin) Reuben slept with his father's concubine and thereby defiled his father's bed. (Hebrews 13:4, Deuteronomy 27:20, Genesis 35:22).

Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed defiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Hebrews 13:4

Cursed be he that lieth with his father's wife; because he uncovereth his father's skirt: and all the people shall say, Amen.

Deuteronomy 27:20

And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bil-hah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it……..

Genesis 35:22

Concerning Simeon and Levi, they were cruel and an angry lot and slew men because one among them had defiled their sister called Dinah, by laying with her and breaking her virginity. (Deuteronomy 5:17, Romans 12:19, Genesis 34).

Thou shalt not kill

Deuteronomy 5:17

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Romans 12:19

And it came to pass on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.

It seems from the scriptures from verse 8 onwards, Jacob blessed his other sons. Your parent holds your blessings if you will only honor them as the Lord requires of you. If you dishonor your parents, don't expect much but curses.

Now concerning curses and blessings by parents over their children we still find yet another incidence in Genesis 9: 20-27, concerning the man Noah.

And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard:

And he drunk of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.

And Shem and Ja'-pheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.

And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.

And he said, cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

God shall enlarge Ja'-pheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

Genesis 9:20-27

From the above two examples we have seen the parents cursing and blessing their children. Incidentally, they are all fathers. Well, don't be mistaken, mothers equally can curse or bless their children because in God they are one flesh. Although the bearer of authority in a family is the father, the mother deputizes the father and to some extent can exercise authority of the father over their children, and that is why God has said you obey and honor both of them.

If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

Get to know you who is a youth that it was that serious to be disobedient and rebellious to your parents in those days and even today it is not a small matter to be taken lightly. The bottom line is that you must obey both your parents in whatever is right in the sight of God lest you are cursed.

I trust and hope you will not push your parents to the wall to force them to take you to other people for discipline. It is quite an embarrassment to them and also a big, big shame to you. Just be obedient for the Lord's sake and be blessed of the Lord, in Jesus' name.

4. The Pastor and other Church leaders

Likewise, being a youth don't offend your pastor or any other church leader. You need to respect them and to obey them in the things of God. It is easy to be cursed or blessed by the pastor (2 Kings 2:23-24, 1 Timothy 5:1-2, 17).

And he went up from thence unto Beth-el: and as he was going up the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.

And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.

2 Kings 2:23-24

Here we see that the children were disrespectful to the servant of God Prophet Elisha and we see the consequences they were killed instantly by wild beasts, who obeyed the word of the Lord in the prophet's utterance (mouth). As a youth be careful how you handle a man of God.

REBUKE not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; the elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

1Timothy 5:1-2, 17

Be careful as youth how you talk to an elder. Give them due respect especially those who serve the Lord teaching pure doctrine.

5. The Rulers in Government

Those in authority in the Government need also to be respected and to be obeyed according to the laws of the land. It is possible for a ruler to curse a person and also one can earn a curse by being disloyal or disrespectful to those in authority or speaking evil against them and not necessarily a ruler speaking a word against you. Don't offend a ruler. (Numbers 12, 2 Samuel 16:5-14). The rulers need to be prayed for; for good leadership – by diving intervention (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

I EXHORT therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior;

Who will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1Timothy 2:1-4

LET every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

For rulers are not terror to good works, but to evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid, for he beareth not the sword

in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Romans 13:1-6

PUT them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work.

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing meekness unto all men.

Titus 3:1-2

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

For so is the will of God, that will well doing ye may put silence the ignorance of foolish Men:

As free, and not using your liberty for cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.
Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

1Peter 2:13-17

It is better to suffer for righteousness' sake s God is righteous and will reward you for it.

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the entire world should be taxed.
(And this taxing was first made when cy-re'-ni-us was governor of Syria).
And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife,

Luke 2:1-5

From the above we can see that even Joseph the father of the Lord (Jesus) subjected himself and his wife to the authorities of that time.

6. The Teachers and Tutors

Teachers and Tutors need the respect of their pupils and students. If you are enrolled in a school you need to respect your teachers and to obey the school rules and so forth. Likewise, if you are enrolled in a college or university you need to respect your tutors and also obey college or university rules in existence. It is possible for a teacher or a tutor to curse a pupil, a student. Don't offend your teacher or tutor.

A word of caution on 3, 4, 5 and 6 above.

-The parents

The parents should guard their words on their children. It is also possible for parents to earn a curse if they don't take care of their children.

-The Pastors and other Church leaders

The Pastor and other Church leaders should guard against speaking evil to a believer.

-The Rulers in Government.

Those who are in authority in the Government must guard their words against those whom they rule.

-The Teachers and Tutors.

The Teachers and Tutors must guard their words what they say to their pupils and students. The teachers and tutors too also can get a curse by mistreating the pupils and students or by giving them wrong teachings. The authorities enlisted above all serve as umbrella or covers, over those they are ruling.

Let me now bring you down to the fact that your relationship with Authorities can either affect you negatively or positively depending on your behaviour to them. I am going to give you three examples, one on Authority in Government, one on Authority in the Church and one on Authority in the Family.

1. Authority in Government

And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of O'-bed-e'-dom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up thr ark of God from the house of O'- bed – e' – dom into the city of David with gladness.

And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six places, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen e'-phod.

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw **King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.**

And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it is his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.

Then David returned to bless his household. **And Michal the daughter of Saul** came out to meet David, and **said, How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!**

And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

And **I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honor.**

Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

2 Samuel 6:12-23

There it is. Michal the daughter of Saul not only despised King David (her husband) in her heart but went further and talked ill of him and she literally received a curse and did not get a child until her death.

2. Authority in Church

AND this is the blessing, where with Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.
And he said, The LORD came from Si'-nai, and rose up from Se'-ir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.
Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.
Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob.

And he was king in Jesh'-urun, when the heads of the people and the tribes of Israel were gathered together.
Let Reuben live, and not die; and let not his men be few.
And this is the blessing of Judah: and he said, Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring him unto his people: let his hands be sufficient for him; and be thou a help to him from his enemies.
And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Mer'-ibah;
Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant.
They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar.
Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands: smite through the loins of them that rise against him, that they rise not again.

And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him: and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,

And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills,

And for the precious things of the earth and fullness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are ten thousands of E'-phra-im, and they are the thousands of Manas'seh.

And of Zeb'-ulun he said, Rejoice, Zeb'-ulun, in thy going out; and, Is'-sachar, in thy tents.

They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand.

And of Gad he said, Blessed be he that enlargeth God: he dwelleth as a lion, and teareth the arm with the crown of the head.

And he provided the first part for himself, because there, in a portion of the lawgiver, was he seated; and he came with the heads of the people, he executed the justice of the LORD, and his judgments with Israel.

And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan.

And of Naph'-ta-li he said, O Naph'-ta-li, satisfied with favor, and full with the blessing of the LORD, possess thou the west and the south.

And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil.

Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.

There is non like unto the God of Jesh'-urun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew.

Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! And thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Deuteronomy 33

It is all blessing galore. That is what awaits all the saints of God who remain in Him. To be NOW and forever more.

3. Authority in Family

AND Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.

Reuben, thou art my first-born, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.

Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations,

O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honor, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self-will they digged down a wall.

Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

Judah, that art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thy enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.

Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver, from between his feet, until Shi'-loh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

Zeb'-ulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for a haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zi'-don.

Is'-sachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens:

And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.

Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.
Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward. I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.
Gad, a troop shall over come him: but he shall overcome at the last.
Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.
Naph'-ta-li is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.
Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:
The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him:
But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)
Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessing of the deep that lieth under, blessing of the breasts, and of the womb:
The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the

everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

Benjamin shall raven as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.

All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

Genesis 49:1-28

That is how Jacob dealt with his sons by blessing each accordingly in that prophecy. You can see how the blessings were mixed, some good and some bad according to how they behaved under the authority of their father. So, be careful how you handle yourself before the authorities you are under. Remember that Michal could not escape from getting a curse from David the King of Israel who happened to be her husband. She failed miserable by her attitude and misbehavior she seemed not to realize that David was ruling her with two hats (authorities); one as a King over all the citizens in Israel and one as her husband-officially in office and domestically in their home. Therefore, as I have said above, be wise, and move cautiously, for your own good.

Nakedness:

In Genesis chapter 9 and verses 20-27 we find how Ham saw his father Noah naked and how when his father found out, his father cursed him. Where there is an action there is a message and the message is: a verbal curse. It is a shameful thing for a child to see his or her parent's nakedness as this also can result into a curse. For the above reason, children need to respect their parents' bedroom and should always knock on the door when any of their parents is inside before coming in after only being told to get in. A parent may have just come in the bedroom say from taking a bath and in the process of dressing up etc etc. A bathroom also is like a bedroom in that both of them one can completely undress and be nude, same with a toilet where one can be partially nude (partly undressed) either for a long call or a short call. All these three are private rooms as private parts are exposed and therefore one should not just walk in like walking in a social hall or a bar or a night club. One need to knock on the door before opening, by the way everybody wants privacy. After all, there is no

gain in seeing some one's nakedness except shame for both of you, and of course a big shame.

Nakedness should not be taken lightly as it speaks loudly and that could be the reason God had to clothe (cover) the nakedness of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden when they fell into sin (Genesis 3:1-21) and so it is equally important for all and sundry to always dress modestly by properly covering their bodies which should be the temple of God and not a product on sale to the public (1 Corinthians 6:20). In a nutshell to dress indecently exposing controversial parts of your body is sinful as it leads others to fall into sin (Matthew 5:27-30). It has been said that the eyes have no curtains meaning they can see anything before them whether it is good or a bad thing. Walking being indecently dressed portrays only one thing – your immoral thoughts and heart. If not so then what the hell is wrong with your upstairs!?

7. Limit of subjection to Authorities.

I believe there is a limit or an end to everything. As we read the holy scriptures, we find that subjection of children to their parents is limited in the Lord (in God's will) same

to a wife to her husband - in the Lord, not outside the Lord (Ephesians 6:1). This should apply to others – the believers in a church and the citizens in their respective countries. We are going to look at some scriptures and see that there are some instances where one need not obey the Authorities; where they are not following the laws of the land or the laws of God (Exodus 1:1-22, Daniel 1:1-17, 3:1-30, 6:1-28, 1 Samuel 19:1-7).

In Exodus we find that the children of Israel who came to Egypt were fruitful and increased abundantly and multiplied and waxed exceedingly mighty and the land was filled with them. This made the new king to oppress them the more through his supervisors and even ordered midwives to kill all the sons that will be born by the Hebrew women, whom the midwives defied and God gave them wisdom how to answer the king and God dealt well with them. Now ask yourself. Here are midwives who also were under the king of Egypt, but they refused to obey his instructions and that is why God himself decided to deal with them well and not punish them because they obeyed God by not killing the Hebrew male children when were born (Deuteronomy 5:17). In the book of Daniel too we

find that Daniel purposed in his heart not to eat and drink the provision from the king lest he be defiled. Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah also refused to bow down and worship the golden image made by king Nebuchadnezzar and also did not serve his god because that was sin (Deuteronomy 5:1-10) and Daniel too later refused to pray to the king as was the decree but continued to pray to God only as was his custom (Matthew 6:5-13). Another incident we find that king Saul spoke to his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David and Jonathan obeyed God and not his father for it is sin to kill (Deuteronomy 5:17). We are to obey God rather than men; when and if they decide to lead us astray from the truth the will of God. (Acts 4:18-20). The midwives knew the will of God which they followed (obeyed) instead of the king's outrageous instruction. Thou shalt not kill (Deuteronomy 5:17).

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.
But Peter and John answered and said into them, whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:18-20

I like the above scripture, you know why? Peter and John were doing what their Master told them to do and here comes some other 'masters' (juniors), telling them to do the opposite. Peter and John (the Apostles) knew the truth and were free and nobody could enslave them. (John 8:31-32) The two were doing what they were commissioned to do by the Lord. (Mathew 28:16-20 and Mark 16:14-18). I am in total agreement with the two and that is why you have this book. The Lord God has done great things in my life and I cannot keep quiet but to talk. I have heard and I have seen and cannot keep quiet, moreover time is not on our side. The believers' greatest event is just about to take place (1 John 1:3-4)

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship with the Father and the Son Jesus Christ.

And these things write us unto you, that your joy may be full.

In Daniel Chapter 1 verses 1-17 we find the four children of Judah, Daniel, Han-a-ni'-ah, Misch'-a-el and Az-a-ri'-ah although the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank, Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank and instead requested they be given only vegetables and water (substituting meat with vegetable and the wine, with water). The Lord God, the Holy one of Israel was on their side as they proved obedient to the commandment of God not to defile themselves. The outcome, they were found that their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. God rewards those who are obedient to His word.

In Daniel Chapter 3 we find that king Neb-u-chad-nez-zar made an image of gold which he later dedicated and ordered all the people should bow down and worship at a set time and that those who refuse to do so will be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. The three children of Judah, Han-a-ni'-ah (later named Sha'-drach), Mish'-a-el

(later named A-bed'-ne-go) totally refused to bow and worship the image because they feared God rather than men, as the Scriptures instructs us. They could not worship an idol. (Deuteronomy 5:6-10).

I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.
Thou shalt have none other gods before me.
Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:
Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.
And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

Deuteronomy 5:6-10

We find that God did not judge the three children of Judah but instead brought them big deliverance. He was the same one who delivered the Israelites from Egypt. (Hebrews 13:8). As for the king, he not only acknowledged the true

God of the three, but decreed he will deal mercilessly with anyone who is against the three and finally he promoted them.

O GIVE thanks unto the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 136

PRAISE ye the LORD; sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.
Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: Let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.
Let them praise his name in the dance:
Let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.
For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.
Let the saints be joyful in glory: Let them sing aloud upon their beds.
Let the high praises of God be in their land;
To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;
To execute upon them the judgment written: with honor have all his saints.
Praise ye the LORD.

Psalm 149

In Daniel Chapter 6 we find that Daniel (later changed to Bel-te-shaz'-zah) king Da-ri'-us made him a president and we find that out of jealousy and envy among the princes, they plotted against Daniel concerning about the law of his God. Daniel later found himself in a lion's den but the Lord God delivered him and the king decreed that all the people to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is a living God whose kingdom cannot be destroyed and his dominion shall remain forever. Although Daniel knew the decree of the king which was initiated by the princes, Daniel nonetheless continued to seek the Lord three times in a day as he used to (Mathew 26:41, Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mathew 26:41

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Luke 18:1

Pray without ceasing.
In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1Thessalonians 5:17-18

Now look at this other example where the servants of king Saul defied his orders as it was against God's commandments (Exodus 20:13, Psalm 105:12-15). In all the above scriptures what is stressed is prayer and thanking God and which is real advice.

And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?
Then A-him'-e-lech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the

king's son-in-law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honorable in thine house?

Did I then begin to inquire of God for him, be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, A-him'-e-lech, thou, and all thy father's house.

And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not show it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

1 Samuel 22:13-17

AND it came to pass after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was sore famine in Samaria.

And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly:

For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

1 Kings 18:1-4

You can now see for yourself that us a youth you need to fear God and obey his commandments and refuse any order from any quarter directing you to go against God's commandment. There is no time for pleasing people around you be they ordinary people or leaders. The Lord Jesus Christ who is the Messiah is about to come to take away His holy Church and if you live pleasing people foolishly or blindly and not God, you will be left here on earth a very miserable person to face the Tribulation and the great Tribulation all under the anti-Christ's rule. Therefore, be wise and live a holy, righteous and blameless life.

In the book of Daniel (Daniel 1:8) we saw that Daniel refused to drink of the wine from the king's table lest he is defiled because the wine was a fermented one and the scriptures are against it (Proverbs 20:1, Leviticus 10: 8-9, Isaiah 5:22-23).

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:8

In addition to the fermented wine from the king's table, Daniel must have decided against the food as well because he was following the Jewish laws which did not allow the eating of certain foods as recorded in the book of Leviticus Chapter 11.

WINE is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Proverbs 20:1

Fermented wine is a strong drink that intoxicates the drinker and result in lack of self-control. It is a mocker as it is not as pleasurable as it may seem and easily has deceived the foolish (unwise).

Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

Isaiah 5:22-23

Ooh, ooh, ooh, wine is that bad. It makes strong men weak, justify the wicked in foolishness and worse still removes (takes away) righteousness from the righteous. That means if you were godly because of taking wine you become ungodly how true this is if one looks at the acts and hears the words of one who has taken wine!

And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying,
Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:
And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;
And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Leviticus 10:8-11

Fermented wine is unholy and not clean but unfermented wine is holy and clean. Although when God spoke to Aaron, he touched on something - when they go into the tabernacle of the congregation. But Satan has deceived some 'servants' of the Lord to taking the fermented wine out there after serving in their private life. Satan was, is and will continue to be a deceiver.

Right from the Garden of Eden where he paid a visit to man and twisted / distorted the truth of God and succeeded in persuading man to disobey God. He is still bringing wrong convictions to mankind to date and continue up to after the millennium rule of Jesus Christ on earth and it will be his last deception to mankind (Genesis 3:1-5, John 8:44, Revelation 20:7-9).

In this lesson as we continue, later we find that the same Daniel was taking wine (of course unfermented, holy, clean wine) which does not defile when we come to the book of Daniel chapter 10. At the time we begin to read we find that Daniel was in prayer and fasting. (Daniel 10:1-3).

CHAPTER 5

The Youth and Education

Everything has its rightful place. There is the place of work and the place of Education and so on. I now begin with the role of Education in regard to the youth in society. The role of Education is twofold. Education for the head which is found mainly in our Educational Institutions and the education we normally get from the Institution of the Church. Both of these are important because they help us in life. The former is only for this life on earth, but the latter is for both the life here on earth and also for the future world to come, in eternity in heaven. The former being for the physical world and the latter being more for the spiritual world. We have both the physical and the spiritual world. The spiritual being the senior one as it is the one that controls the physical. Actually, things don't just happen; they begin some where and that is the spiritual realm. Let me take you back to the book of Genesis. In chapter 1 we find that the Spirit of the Lord was hovering over the waters and things began to happen only when the

Spirit moves into action. Therefore, things that happen, be they good or bad begin in the Spirit world in the spiritual realms and from there they come and manifest in the physical world and can be seen. From there I hope you well know that there are two spiritual forces- Holy one and Evil one. The Holy Spirit of God and the evil spirit of Satan. The latter being junior to the former and usually the source of all evil (Acts 13:8-10).

But El'-y-mas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.
Then Saul, (who also in called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,
And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

Acts 13:8-10

In verse 11 we see the supremacy of the Holy Spirit of God over the evil spirit of Satan (the devil) the sorcerer was playing with fire and therefore he must be burned. The

apostle was filled with the Holy Ghost and had his way and made the sorcerer blind instantly.

In verse 12 we see the result of the Holy Spirit in action- the deputy believed (received faith), Alleluia to the King of Kings. While we pursue to educate our mind (the head) about the physical world, because we are in the world don't need to be ignorant of our environment, likewise, we need to educate our heart also by getting spiritual education. The education we get from the world is for temporary usage as we are here temporarily (Philippians 3:20-21) but the spiritual education is for eternity (Matthew 24:35, 1 Peter 1:23-25)

Heaven and earth shall pass, away, but my words shall not pass away.

Matthew 24:35

Being born again, not of corruptible see, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

But the word of the lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

1 Peter 1:23-25

If as a youth you truly want to know the truth in life and come to understand issues in life by being wise and to later have eternity in heaven, then accept Jesus Christ the Son of the living God to come in your life by repenting of your sins and believing in Christ's death on the cross and his later resurrection (Romans 3:21-26). Read also the following: Isaiah 11:1-2, Luke 11:49, John 14:1-6, 1 John 5:20.

In all the books you will ever read, there is only one book that touches on the whole life cycle of mankind and is the most important that mankind ever had and cannot be compared to any other. It is the only book that leads people to eternal life in heaven where God dwells.

It is a life manual and one cannot afford to be without and to use it to guide one in life. It is the only book that is ever relevant and cannot be revised or updated is known as the

Holy Bible with two portions: the first and being the Old Testament with 39 chapters and second being the New Testament with 27 chapters. Unlike other books, it is a spiritual book and therefore one need to be spiritual to be able to grasp it and apply the knowledge there appropriately in life to one's advantage. Just as in a classroom or a lecture hall one needs a teacher or a lecturer, it is the same with the Holy Bible where the principal teacher or the principal lecturer is the spirit of God the Holy Spirit who teaches, guides and counsels those who have him in their lives. But for one to have him one must repent of his or her sins to God and to put his or her faith in Christ as Lord and Savior by inviting him into one's heart to bring a new life. So, to say, the Holy Bible is a special book that a youth needs as a companion in life (Psalms 119:9, 105). The book of Proverbs in the Holy Bible is full of advice and you can read for yourself for a start but here I present some few scripture touching on the word of God how it is and what it can do for you in life.

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psalm 12:6

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 40:8

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:17-18

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flowers of the grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

1 Peter 1:24-25

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:16-17

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For after that in wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

As a youth don't use your body as a platform or testing ground or a laboratory to do all sorts of tests in life as it will backfire and hurt / destroy you; just as in a laboratory you cannot be careless in handling of chemicals by mixing them just anyhow not knowing their characteristic as by mixing some can result in an explosion and you get burned. Treat your body as borrowed property as it is not yours but God's as his creation. So, don't do anything and everything in or on it without any regard to the owner, that is, God your Creator. There are things you need to do and there are things you need not do and as I said earlier, the Holy Bible which is the word of God should be your yardstick / guide.

It is a life manual in the true sense for all of us. So, in summary, watch / control what you read, see, say, do, think hear and don't follow anybody blindly, by imitating them and end landing in a ditch.

Just as with the computer, what you feed in is what comes out the phrase 'Garbage in Garbage Out', it is the same with one's life as this scripture says.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.
For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:7-8

Be saved and receive the Holy Spirit and obey him always to be able to sow in the Spirit and not in the flesh (in the body) so as to reap (inherit) everlasting life in heaven after your life on earth. Always remember that the flesh (the body) is corrupt through and through and overcome him by the power of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18, Romans 8:5-13).

You need to believe this word which is preached and invite Jesus Christ into your life to be born again (born- a new, this time not physically, by biological parent-mother, but spiritually this time round). The new birth which if you remain in leads to eternal life in heaven with the Lord of lords and the King of kings.

The word of God should not be taken as a mere education for information (knowledge) but as life, believing in and acting on, for it to have effect in our life and change us. If not, we will remain the same unchanged and only become religious. A professor of linguistics for instance cannot bring one single soul to the kingdom of God, likewise a Doctor of Divinity who has not come to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and hence does not have the Holy Spirit of God cannot cast out even one small demon from a person. All of us need nothing short of Jesus. Look at Apostles Peter and John - fishermen who didn't see the inside of a classroom to get formal education but had educated their heart as were born-again and were bold as lions (Proverbs 28:1, Acts 4:1-22). Now look at the unlearned Peter in Acts 2:14-41. You can see that he was more learned in the heart than all the professors of this

world who are not saved. Look at both these unlearned men - Peter and John in Acts 3:1-10; who tell me with the education of this world can have that happen surely? Now look at Acts 5:1-11; with the education from Educational Institutions even Harvard University who could comprehend what was going on? Look at Acts 9:36-42 what happened at Joppa. The Education one has in salvation is real education and is of a higher order. Let not any one judge me wrongly that I am advocating for Illiteracy, No, no, no, but let us put our priorities right. Let us not leave this education for our souls because it counts most. If we leave it, we have already lost. (Matthew 6:31-33; 16:24-26).

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that thou have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:31-33

Many youths are worried about the future but the best thing they need to do is to first seek the Lord and to give more value to the things above (of heaven) setting one's heart there as for sure God will take care of them as he is called Jehovah-Jire (Colossians 3:1-4, Genesis 22:14).

My son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my saying.
Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:20-23

By seeking the kingdom of God you will have attended to your heart to help you live right.

For what is man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Matthew 16:26

Let us be sincere in connection to what the Lord Jesus Christ said in the above verse. Anything we will ever acquire on planet earth without Christ Jesus in us; to crown it all is zero - nothing.

In any case, we have only two options in life; It is either heaven or hell; and you have to choose pretty well early enough. As early as yesterday. Nobody knows the day nor the hour when things will have totally changed for the better or for the worse on you and I. What is your choice? I know the choice I already chose and is walking towards it. Apostle Paul and Luke the physician had both education for example (Act 22:3; 18:3, 2 Timothy 4:13, Colossians 4:14, Acts 1:1-2, Luke 1:1-4) and it proved to be most useful to them. But suppose you missed getting a formal education like Apostles Peter and John, It is okay in God as your destiny is heaven.

The Holy Spirit is the best teacher ever as he will teach a Christian all truth and remind of the same as well as inform of the things to come (John 16:13). Unlike the education one gets from Educational Institutions which is incomplete and also lacks life (John 6:63).

Please note that there has been reports of some Christians who never had formal education but could read the Holy Bible, God is great.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you in to all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come

John 16:13

I very much thank the Lord for that because on several occasions he has shown me things to come before they happen. This is a big advantage over them that are not in the Lord (unsaved). Many things are happening in the world but those surprised most are those still in the world (in the flesh) and not in the Lord (in the Spirit).

My further advice to the youth is that before marriage one need to take the time and further one's studies before later settling for a marriage, as after marriage, one will need time to be with one's spouse and say children as well as will have more responsibilities and more committed to one's family and so on. Get to know from the outset that education normally requires much time, more concentration

and much finance in addition to absence from one's house or home, in the case of college or university (locally or abroad).

So ideally, do these before entering into a marriage as it is I believe wiser that way. Many got into marriage and got much difficulty in advancing in their studies and some never had the finances and time to do so at the expense of their family. To be foretold is to be forewarned.

The 7 steps to success in Education

1. Spirituality

Now Spirituality has to do with godliness and is the key to God's favor and also leads to the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 7:13-14; 24-25, Psalm 119:9-11, Luke 11:27-28). If you read the following scriptures you will come to know that godliness makes one to outshine others as the case of Joseph, Joshua, Esther and Daniel (Genesis 39: 1-41:44, Joshua 1:8, Esther 1:1-2:18 and Daniel 1, 2, 5:1-6:4).

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for

then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

There in that scripture lies the key to your success and a good one indeed. The key is your **obedience to the written word of God** (Logos in Greek language). The big question that comes to you is: Are you always obedient to what God has said?

In touching on spirituality let me make it clear to you that it is a twofold issue in that there is positive and negative spirituality (2 Timothy 3: 15-17, 1 Timothy 4:1-3). One (the former) is godly, useful, truthful and real, worthy, right and good, superior and constructive with unlimited power and the other is evil, useless, false and therefore fake, unworthy, wrong and bad, inferior and destructive and having limited power. But as I have said in beginning, I am touching on the positive spirituality which is of God.

Spirituality is the fundamental thing which if one lacks one has a high chance of not achieving much or going far in life overally. I happened to have read a book where it was reported that some research was done on scientists and it was found that many inventors were people of faith-

Christians. That brings the question “Are you a Christian - already born again in the Spirit of God?’’. Remember Solomon when he became king, he asked God to give him wisdom which is the education of the heart (he wanted to be spiritual). He loved God walking in God’s statutes and asked for wisdom (James 1:5, 1 Kings 3:3-12)

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:5

And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.
And the king went to Gib’-eon to sacrifice there; for that was great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that attar.
In Gib’-eon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.
And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked

before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not to go out or come in.

And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

And the speech pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing.

And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgement;

Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there

was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

1 Kings 3:3-12

I think one of the reasons why many leaders fail is because they lack understanding to discern judgement when in leadership. King Solomon got wisdom and understanding so much that he became so famous and rich and did so much for the Lord and himself and the queen of Sheba had to come all the way from her country to come and see and hear for herself the fame of Solomon's wisdom which had heard. You too, need the true wisdom of God – the whole wisdom for all spheres of life to be able to face and tackle all the issues in life appropriately and effectively. First read the following scriptures:

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

1 Corinthians 2:14-15

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:13-17

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgement, and equity; yea, every good path.

When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

Proverbs 2:6-11

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Proverbs 4:5-9

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

Proverbs 8:11-12

Now let me draw your attention to the following scripture.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

The above scripture touches on wisdom which comes as a result of fearing God. But God is a Spirit and so you have to be spiritual yourself to be able to fear Him. Get to know that all knowledge and skill in learning is given by God (Daniel 1:1-20) hence the need to have a close relationship with God by surrendering your life to Jesus Christ so s to be reconciled back to God (Romans 3:20-26, 2 Corinthians 5:19-6:2).

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37: 3-5

One need to have his trust in the Lord committing his ways to him for him to give one the desires of one's heart. Are you a true believer in the Lord to trust him to bring what you desire to come to pass including your success in education? As the Lord is everything in life.

REMEMBER now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the stars, be not or darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;

Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

Or over the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

You will not remain a youth but will age into adulthood and grow old and your body will become weak and unable to do many things and will experience many difficulties in life and eventually will die and go to the grave so you are advised to come to the Lord while young and energetic and serve him for a fruitful life and it will be life well lived here on earth. So, choose now, as you are either for God or for the Devil, but I advise you to be for God and begin to shine for him in bringing souls to his kingdom and also to be enabled to shine in your Education. (Matthew 12:30; 10: 32-33, Psalm 37:1-5). If you fail to do that, then all things

will be vanity in your life (Ecclesiastes 12:8), as the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem said, that is Solomon who became king after his father and was given wisdom and by the Spirit of God uttered those powerful words which are very true.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

Seek to be righteous by first giving your life to the Lord Jesus Christ to enable you live righteously and all other things you may desire will be added to you including success in your Education, employment, fame, name it.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel.

Luke 1:80

The above was none other than John the Baptist who grew and waxed strong in spirit. Why? Because he had the Spirit of God who strengthened his spirit. You too need the Spirit of God to strengthen your spirit to be useful for the Lord and yourself.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

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

Luke 2:46, 47, 52

Jesus Christ was spiritual as had the Spirit of his Father and increased in wisdom. You too can increase in all wisdom if you are in God through Christ Jesus, the only Savior of mankind, if you will only believe in him, confessing your sins and inviting him in your life to reign over your life.

2. Availability

We have found in the just concluded point (point #1) that Jesus Christ was available at the temple in Jerusalem as a boy to hear about the scriptures by the doctors (Luke 2:46) and also asking them questions- being inquisitive to know more. Don't allow absenteeism in class or lecture hall to affect your Education adversely, save for serious issues like

falling sick and unable to avail yourself or bereavement by a close family member like your parents or your siblings.

AND seeing the multitudes he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
……
……
……
……

Matthew 5:1 - 7:29

In the above account you can see that the disciples went to Jesus their Master and Teacher to teach them. They availed themselves as you too need to avail yourself to your teacher or lecturer to be taught.

AND after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart,
And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and E'-li-jah talking with him.

Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Eli'-jah.

Matthew 17:1-4

Just as Jesus made the three disciples to see that spectacle as they had availed themselves to him, you too need to avail yourself not only for theory lessons but also for practical lessons as well to be well learned and balanced in your knowledge.

3. Attitude

You need to have the right attitude in whatever lesson you go for and the teacher or lecturer to take you through that lesson. Do not hate any of the lessons you go for and despise not your teacher or lecturer, rather you need to love all the subjects and not to say in your heart that any of them is hard. Because if you do so you will not make much effort in them and end up doing badly in them to your detriment. Even don't look at the dressing or countenance of your teacher or lecturer and make any conclusion in your

mind about him or her. Let us look at one classical example.

AND they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.
And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.
And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?
And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramoth-Gilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.
And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Inquire, I pray thee, at the word of the Lord today.
Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramoth –Gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we might inquire of him?

And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

1Kings 22:1-8

In the above scripture we do find wrong attitude of the king of Israel on the prophet Micaiah who was actually a true prophet of God who concluded with a true prophecy from God and which came to pass (verses 9-38). The lesson we learn there is that you should not despise any of your teacher or lecturer as your success could be lying in his or her mouth on what he or she teaches you. Be wise as king Jehoshaphat of Judah and keenly listen and take note of what is being taught and thereby succeed in your education. Remember the prophet Samuel almost missed God's chosen by merely looking at the outside appearance of Jesse's sons before God Himself intervened (1 Samuel 16:6-7). I do advise you to inculcate a loving culture in your teachers or lecturers and giving them due respect

regardless of their outside appearance which of course may turn out to be deceptive and can mislead and give a misconception on the teachers or lecturers.

Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honorest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?
Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

1 Samuel 2:29-30

In the above account the sons of Eli the priest, Hophni and Phinehas misbehaved in the tabernacle of God by not only being immoral but also not honoring God in the sacrifices offered to him by the Israelites and God was much displeased and was determined to judge them. You too might not go far if you don't behave well and don't cover the whole syllabus as is required. God will see to it that you

don’t succeed as he had placed you under your teacher or lecturer whom you have despised and behaved badly to.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Proverbs 9:10

Work hard in all the subjects and don’t waste your time in any other thing especially when in the classroom or lecture hall and also finish your home work or assignment given in good time. If you do that God will reward your efforts. Both the things you are required to do in the classroom or lecture hall or at your place of residence are important and don’t down grade any of them.

4. Discipline

You just have to be disciplined in life. If you don’t, you can hardly succeed even in Education.

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Temperance is required to be able to succeed.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, **temperance:** against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Although being listed last, it is equally important as all the other eight listed before it. You must have the Spirit of God to be temperate. Read also the book of Genesis and see how Joseph behaved well as he was with God and was therefore a disciplined youth. (Genesis 39:1-12).

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Psalm 119:9

Cleanse your way by the word of God being obedient to it and refuse to cheat in your examinations and you will achieve a deserved success and be in peace later in your employment or business confident you are not a fake on your academics.

5. Time management

It is equally important to use your time well and waste it not on irrelevancies. Plan all your daily activities well and allocate enough time for each and do them pretty well. You just must be organized and time management in your life will tell it all whether you are an organized fellow or a disorganized fellow. It has been said that time waits for no-one! One of those important things is to have a time table of studying each subject, and allocating time accordingly. Don't just study haphazardly.

TO every thing **there is a season, and a time to every purpose** under the heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

It simply means that even education has its time so work hard and come out with success not squandering your time in other things.

He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

Ecclesiastes 11:4

That simply means you have to be on the move doing something useful and not just idling as that profits you nothing, save when resting after achieving something from your labors.

And when they had gone through the isle unto Pa'-phos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar'-je'-sus:

Which was with the deputy of the country, **Ser'-gi-us Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.**

Acts 13:6-7

How about you, Are you a prudent youth and spend your time wisely as this deputy of country or just too busy with Academics? Do you also desire to hear the word of God which is the strength for your spirit? Do you take time to read the word of God and even pray? Do you go for the Christian union and fellowship with the brethren? This Sergius Paulus set time from his Administrative work, just to hear the word of God! It was not in vain and he received faith (Acts 13:12).

If you have faith, you have the energy to continue to pursue your goals. The word of God drives you to go on until you achieve despite many obstacles. Faith comes by hearing so also hear the word by setting time for it and not just to be hearing only temporal things.

See then that ye **walk circumspectly,** not as fools, but **as wise, Redeeming the time,** because the days are evil.
Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

Ephesians 5:15-17

Now am afraid you will not know the will of God by academics but by the word of God. Dwell too in the word of God even with whatever little time you may have at your disposal thinking about your eternity and doing something about it before it is too late. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Time management is a very important factor in life and which determines one's failure or success in one's endeavors in life. For that reason on occasions I normally wake up as early as 3.00 a.m or at 4.00 am to begin doing the day's tasks one by one setting time for each task and by midday am done and have enough time for rest and reflecting on the day's achievements and planning tasks for the next day.

6. Career choice and development

It is important to choose a career of one's choice and then work at it to develop it. If possible, you need exposure and that is why out there we have things like one being on an attachment or internship on some professions so as to gain some experience to add more value on one's knowledge acquired in Educational Institutions. Even Jesus Christ

availed himself at the temple and got an exposure at an early age of twelve years. (Luke 2: 41-46, 52).

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover.
And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.
And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.
But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.
And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.
And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.
And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:41-46, 52

Now the scripture also says that Joseph the biological father of Jesus was a carpenter and that Jesus also practiced carpentry. (Matthew 13: 55, Mark 6:3). But I think we should not as parents try to force our children to follow our footsteps by pursuing our professions as their future occupation. Even Jesus tarried in the temple pursuing the things of his Father in heaven. (Luke 2: 46-50). Parents need to be keen on their children to learn what they like doing and what they normally do best and guide them accordingly on which career to take. Having a keen interest can unravel some of their talents which are God given and which need nurturing to fulfill the purposes of God in their lives. David the son of Jesse had a talent for shepherding and which he loved with much passion and was even ready to risk his life for the sake of his father's flock which he was looking after. I do believe he did not know that the Lord had placed him there to do exercises on animals before being promoted to shepherd human beings (the Israelites). Do you have passion in your occupation/profession? If not, maybe you are wrongly placed in what you are engaged in.

Now, David was the son of that Eph'-ra-thite of Beth-lehem- Judah whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul.

And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were E-li'-ab the first-born, and next unto him A-bin'-a-dab, and the third Sham'-mah.

And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.

But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-lehem.

1 Samuel 17:12-15

And **David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:**

And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him:

Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Phil-is'-tine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

1 Samuel 17:34-36

Yes, David showed leadership quality here being ready to face the giant Goliath.

AND the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided for me a king among his sons.

And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me.

And the LORD said, Take a heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Beth-lehe-m. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

And he said, Peacebly: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on E-li'-ab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Then Jesse called A-bin'-a-dab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

Then Jesse made Sham'-mah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he

keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.
And he sent, and brought him in. now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.
Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ra'-mah.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Now going back to what David did to the lion and the bear (1 Samuel 17:34-36) he did what the Lord did to all of us by giving his life for us to be set free and to inherit everlasting life. Jesus Christ did it all by Himself. (John 10:9-14)

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.
The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

John 10:9-14

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

And lo, it was grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

So shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth; and thy want as an armed man.

Proverbs 24:30-34

Have you looked at and considered your work? Do you find half - finished homework or assignments? If so, change now and quickly or else you won't be able to tackle the examinations when they finally come as they will overwhelm you and you will not be able to do anything about it- as your failure will have been sealed.

7. Focus

Lastly and also very important, don't lose focus. You must be focused throughout your Education or Training to succeed at the end of it all. Don't keep on brooding on your past failures but move on with even more determination. There should be no looking back but looking forward and no looking down but looking up.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the walk for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

Don't consider yourself as a failure because maybe you failed some time back but press on by revising as well as busy tackling the present with all your zeal and you will definitely pass/succeed this time round onwards, just as you also work on your high calling from above.

I trust and believe one can excel in both by the grace of God if one does not faint on the way but remaining focused all the time.

WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Just as there are weights (sins) which need be set aside (staying away from) in the Walk of faith, there are also weights in life even as we pursue Education and Training in some difficulties which need be dealt with decisively to give us room to pursue and get what we are aiming at- Take time and single them out one by one and say you are not going to allow them to bog you down. Rather focus on the Lord as this other scripture says:

I WILL Lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.
And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:61-62

Just as the Christian walk needs no looking back but being focused always, the same also applies to Education and Training- you cant mix issues and expect to succeed, for example you are already enrolled in a School, College or University but instead of concentrating on what took you there, you at the same time want to have fun or do something totally different and which is not going to help you at all in any way to achieve your ambition/goal. One thing at a time (Ecclesiastes 3:1) It is not easy to serve two masters at the same time or let me say it is impossible, as you will definitely fail one of them which in this case is your Education / Training.

It is important to note that our God is not against Education as he knows it is necessary for one to have the knowledge of the earth where one is currently living on (Acts 4:13). However, it should not be used to fight God by one becoming proud after achieving it. One need to humble oneself and draw close to God who enables us to achieve and acquire things in life. One need not to be proud and begin to look down upon others because of one's education, or to idolize it by telling everyone

that one has achieved this or that (mind you, you are not the only one, as there are many others) and even if you are the only one with such an achievement so what? You are still a mortal man or woman who the Scripture say is like the grass or flower or vapour (Isaiah 40:6-8, James 4:10-17). So, one need to know what is equally important and not to try to fight it and that is the word of God which is life (John 6:63). So, let your education be a blessing and not a curse in your life- be sober and not be puffed up.

Chapter 6

The Youth and Work

In the beginning before creation we find that the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. Only the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters (Genesis 1:1-2). It is only when he decided to act that there began to be changes.

And God said, let there be light: and there was light.
And God saw the light, that is was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Genesis 1:3-5

God continued with his activities for six consecutive days and only rested on the seventh day, after he had completed creation of all things seen and unseen. God looked at what he had done and he was satisfied as it was very good. The whole creation we find that it ended at the end of chapter 2 of the book of Genesis. Moreover, in that second chapter is where God put the man he had made in the Garden of Eden and told him to dress it and to keep it. (Genesis 2:8, 15)

Later in chapter 3 after the fall of man by disobeying the commandment of God, God had this to tell him (Genesis 3: 17-19)

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;
Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field:
In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou taken: for dust thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust thou return.

Genesis 3:17-19

We have found out that God Himself worked and also extended work to the first man - Adam and from the just concluded verses above says clearly that we have to work to earn a living. We have to work out what we will eat. God our Creator is a working God and we his creation made in God's image after his likeness must be a working

people (this includes the youth) who are part of the society and who have much strength and can work harder.
The following youths recorded in the scripture engaged themselves in work and you are not to be an exception.

AND Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.
And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.
And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:
But into Cain and to his offering he had no respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.
And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?
If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Genesis 4:1-9

And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Be-thu'-el the Syrian of Pa'-dan-ar'-am, the sister to Laban the Syrian.

And Isaac entreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

And the children struggled together within her; and she said,

If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the Lord,

And the Lord said unto her, two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the older shall serve the younger.

And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled behold, there were twins in her womb.

And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

Genesis 25:20-27

AND Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bil'-hah, and with the sons of Zilp-ah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

Genesis 37:1-2

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on E-li'-ab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Then Jesse called A-bin'-a-dab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

Then Jesse made Sham'-mah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

And he sent, and brought him in. now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ra'-mah.

1 Samuel 16:6-13

You can see clearly from the above scriptures that those youths each had something to do and did not idle around but helped their parents in one task or another. Equally

female youths too need to be engaged in house chores learning by example of their mothers and helping them in the daily tasks.

Hand being a factor of production, if the parents of the youths have hand, both the males and the females can additionally learn farm work from their parents and be giving a hand now and then.

It is not only in the book of Genesis that God instructed man to work in order to earn a living, but also elsewhere as we are going to read in a short while.

Go to the ant, sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:
Which having no guide, overseer or ruler,
Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathered her food in the harvest.
How long wilt thou sleep O sluggard?
When wilt thou a rise out of thy sleep?
Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:
So shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Proverbs 6:6-11

God has said that you get wisdom from those small ants in case you are a lazy one, for as small as they are, and even without supervision, they work. How about you youth? Don't start giving excuses, Ooh home work, Ooh, Ooh. Start now to exercise time management.

You will be a more responsible youth if you start to practice time management now. Know and plan each day's activities and the time available and plan wisely how to use (utilize) that time in the best way possible. A good time manager is a successful man or woman. Only God controls the time, you and me it is up to us to see how best we utilize the time God avails to us by allowing us to live another day. If anyone wrongly utilizes his/her time, one can't blame anyone but oneself. I know the youth most or all go to school or college or University. But any time you are back at home and with your parents, at least spare time to help them in whatever endeavors they are in, be it farming, business or household chores. If you do, you will have relieved them a bit and also you will have learnt how to live; work and earn a living. The parents can pass away or can go on a far trip and so on.

If you had not learnt from them on what to do, when and how, how will you manage (live)? Or you think you will go to your neighbor, some of your friends, if so, for how long? That is not your home. Therefore, don't depend on house boys or house girls in case your family have them. They are just workers and not glued to the work they do in the household as they can leave anytime just as any other worker and you will be left to do all the work in the house. So, I advise you to get used now on how normally people live so that you can be able to cope when left alone. Time management will make one be an organized fellow in life, if you master it. Otherwise you are just a disorganized lot and life will prove to be unnecessarily difficult. God is a planner and therefore you need to plan your life and present to the Master planner to help you accomplish. Time is one of those factors in life you can't control as it is an abstract thing and you can't tell it "could you please hold on", No, it is on the move. It is only Joshua by his faith and by the grace of God prayed and his prayer was granted by having the sun stand still for hours, and enabled Joshua to continue to fight his enemies in day light till he conquered them. (Joshua 10:12-14). In

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 we find that there is time for everything. The times one has, is a time for one to organize and see how one accommodates to do everything that is necessary for that day and time. That is why we don't do only a thing or two the whole day. We have to work, to cook, to eat, to drink, to wash, to bathe to read and write, to rest, to do all sorts of things in a single day; Each being apportioned just enough time (not too little time and not too much time). If we were to do only a single thing we have wasted or squandered time. Our God the creator hates wastage of resources. That is why Jesus instructed His disciples to collect left-overs, after he had provided food to multitudes (Luke 9:10-13, Mark 15:32-37).

God still continue to work today on the physical as well as on the spiritual. God is busy now working in building His Church and bringing it to a maturity stage. We human beings are also busy in the physical work and for those who are born- again we also have God's work which is spiritual, apart from our physical work. Before I go to the segment of spiritual work let me conclude on the physical work to earn a living, with some scriptures.

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walkest disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busy bodies.

Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

From the above we see that if you don't work you are walking disorderly and you need not eat (ask for food). Don't be a busy body – not working but only interested in what others are doing. Work with your own hands as those others and have something to put on the table to eat.

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 13:4

If you just sit and do nothing be assured you will have nothing. So be diligent and work. Hard work pays in the end and you definitely have something. If you don't work you will still have a need, but it cannot be met. As a youth have something to do as some of the youth mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 4:1-4, 25:24 – 28, 37: 1-17, 1 Samuel 16:10-13). Now in Genesis 4:1-4 we find that both Cain and Abel had some work they were doing and they received the fruits of their hands and each had something to present to God as a sacrifice. In Genesis 25:24-28 we find that Esau was a cunning hunter and now and then would bring home a kill from hunting to his parents. But we are told Jacob was a plain man and stayed in tents! I don't

know how plain he was, actually what he was doing- may be domestic chores, I don't know but what I know he could do something, as seen in the next few verses – he could trick someone on something. In 1 Samuel 16:10-17 we find that young David not only was tending his father's sheep but also was available to be sent on errands. In Genesis 37:1-17 we find that Joseph too was busy looking after his father's sheep and goats, and also could be sent on errands by his father. Joseph's other brothers were also busy looking after other flock. All these youths were engaged in some work.

I remember saying that there is some spiritual work of God to be done by God's children and he has got so much work for you such that he keeps on with recruitment of workers to work in his fields. World governments are having a problem of unemployment but with God there is nothing like unemployment in fact he has vacancies in various fields.

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Then saith he unto his disciples,

The harvest truly in plenteous, but the laborers are few;
Pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:36-38

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:5

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ:
Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:11-13

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to the harvest.

And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathered fruit unto life eternal; that both he that seweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.
And here is that saying true, one soweth, and another reapeth.
I sent you to reap that where on ye bestowed no labor: other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors.

John 4:35-38

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 12:26; 14:3

Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD, of hosts?

And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea they that tempt God are even delivered.

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my Jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Malachi 3:14-18

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality

Romans 12:11-13

In all the above scriptures one is supposed to serve the Lord with whatever ministry or gift as necessary and one

need not be lazy in serving the Lord – read the book of Proverbs (Proverbs 14:35).

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Working for the Lord is not in vain and definitely pays, that is, is most beneficial in the end of the Walk.

"Physically you are what you often eat and drink and spiritually you are what you often see, think, read, hear/listen to". All these impacts one's life either positively or negatively depending on what one has ingested in through the various body organs is each case. As a youth you will find that hard work is profitable for you (Proverbs 12:24-27).

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but good word maketh it glad.

The righteous is more excellent than his neighbor: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

Proverbs 12:24-27

You need to be diligent when using your hands in work in order to get a precious substance out of the work.

Tips for useful work

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 10:4

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

Proverbs 20:13

In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

Proverbs 14:23

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

If God enables you to get employment then be honest to him and pay all your tithes and give other offerings (Malachi 3: 7-12) as required to support the work of God as he is the one that also gives strength and health for you to work. Respect you employer and be honest to him/her as well.

So that God does not count you as a robber and be cursed thereby. If not employed and have a piece of land or your father has, you can do some farming activities to earn a living. Alternatively, if you want to venture into business and can get some funds you can ask God to direct you to one. In both these too, be honest both to God and in business also to people. Be hard working in any of the above three you find you are into and God will bless the work of your hands (Deuteronomy 8:11-18, 28:1-14).

After one has graduated from School, College or University and has reached an adult stage and is seeking for some employment, one need not go for any job simply

because there is unemployment out there as there are some jobs that are destructive to the human life and one can earn a curse in them. Example is a case where the products being produced are in a way harmful to human health if consumed.

In case you are not successful in getting an employment and want to venture into the business world, don't go into any business which is illegal e.g. the selling of narcotics, to earn a curse from it - don't involve yourself in any rackets. The legal business you go into see to it that you don't evade paying tax to the Government (Matthew 22:15-21, Romans 13:1-7).

Equally important is the need to practise good business ethics (Leviticus 19:35-37, Deuteronomy 25:13-16, Proverbs 20:10). If you are dishonest in your business dealings you can earn a curse thereby. Also to note is that you should not pay a bribe to be awarded a tender to supply goods or services (Exodus 23:8, Deuteronomy 16:19-20, Ecclesiastes 7:7) and the same applies when one is seeking for employment or when employed need not give a bribe or any favour in return for an employment or a promotion as it

is sin before God who will judge all who involve in such practises.

It is not only giving a bribe is sin but receiving a bribe is sin too; in order to give service to someone.

One need to work hard and be productive as through that God can cause your employer to reward you by a promotion as the scriptures says:

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Psalm 75:6-7

IT pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom.

And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and the princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole kingdom.

Daniel 6:1-3

Daniel apart from having an excellent spirit, he must have been hard working to outshine the others and be evident to all. He was rewarded just as we are going to see from some two servants below.

And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.
He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.
And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.
But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.
And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.
Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds

And he said unto him, Well, though good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.
And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.
And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.
And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept up in a napkin:
For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.
And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow.
Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?
And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.
(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.
But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

Luke 19:11-27

So, we can see that hard work pays and so is faithfulness in work, which is equally important. By faithfulness I mean obedience to one's master. Also, to note is that one need to avoid provoking one's employer. Read on.

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt be not beneath; if thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and do them.
And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Deuteronomy 28:13-14

Those two servants were both rewarded and made to lead ten and five cities respectively so they were above and not beneath as stated above. Now look at this as well.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Luke 16:10

One need not to despise one's work but rather to love it and to work at it with passion knowing at the back of one's mind that out there, There are many who are unemployed and one need not think he or she is special but know that God has favored him or her to have that employment to earn a living out of it.

Chapter 7

The Youth and Marriage

The Scriptures do tell us that there is time for everything on the earth (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). Now that time includes a time for marriage as well and which this chapter is going to introduce to you who has attained the age of 18 years and above, that is, has finally transitioned into early adulthood. This period normally is the beginning of your last phase in life. As I had just said above, this is an introduction into the marriage life (a guide line) of how to get into marriage. For detailed information in marriage life you can read my other book entitled 'Christian Marital Life'.

After your education life there is a possibility of you getting engaged in some employment in order to earn a living from your income. At that juncture get to know that a time will come when you will need to leave your parents so as to start a new life in a new home with your life partner in marriage, as God initially at creation intended as recorded in scripture (Genesis 2:8-24).

From that scripture you already can see that God saw that it was not good for man to live alone and he made for him a woman. Please note that the first man Adam did not look

for a woman as many people do today and end badly in their marriage life.

Therefore, you need to ask God to lead you by praying to him. But God is a Spirit and for you to be led by him you need to be spiritual as well, meaning you must be born again (saved) (John 4:22-24, Romans 8:14) as when one is born again God has promised his spirit (the Holy Spirit) who will quicken one's spirit and help one live a spiritual life (Acts 2:36-38, Ephesians 2:1-5, John 15:26).

God who created us is the one that initiated marriage to the first man Adam in the Garden of Eden, therefore marriage is an Institution of God ordained by him and is very important.

It follows therefore that marriage life needs to be lived spiritually being led by the Holy Spirit in order to live right pleasing God or else one will live a miserable life not pleasing his or her Creator.

Now let me say this, there is a process to getting to marriage life as it is not merely an event (something like an accident), no. Many do think that marriage is an event in that a man meet a woman and they begin to live a marriage life.

Such people I say are in the flesh and are not spiritual and therefore are carnal. Let me give some illustration: Even at birth one is born as a baby and by growth has to become a small child, and to a youth and finally become an adult. Same to Education where one has to start from somewhere such as a Nursery or a Kindergarten school then to a Primary School then to a High School and finally to a University to complete one's Education, graduating from one stage to the next, the same it is with marriage where of course there are steps or stages before finally getting there. So, it is not something that one just jumps into like boarding a bus, but is something one need to be led step by step before it is finally actualized in the right way, in God's way. Marriage is one thing that need not be hurried as it is a lifelong thing and if one makes a mistake it will be too bad for such a one.

Get to know that God being our Creator, he is our match marker and can never go wrong if we go to him for guidance on marriage partner (Genesis 1:26-28). So, don't allow to be led by your flesh being attracted to someone by lust of the flesh and not by the love of God. If you are not yet saved definitely in getting into marriage you will get

there in a wrong way through the back door as the Holy Spirit is not in you to help you (Proverbs 15:29, John 9:31). In Educational Institutions as well as Employment Institutions there are rules and codes of conduct to be adhered to. It is the same in marriage - one need to know one's role pretty well and be able to relate properly and responsibly with one's spouse according to the word of God living a godly life and not a jungle like life. So don't remain solo in life when you have reached adulthood but take time to pursue and get a marriage partner as that is good before God (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Proverbs 18:22) but a word of caution: Do not use your own judgment by a mere sight saying in your heart 'She is so beautiful I think she can make a good wife' or 'He is so handsome I think he can make a good husband'. (1 Samuel 16:1-13, Proverbs 31:10, 31, 31:30). It has been said 'Not all that glitters is gold'. So, if you go by sight only you are courting a disaster and missing the mark and will fail miserably and live to regret it. So, go God's way- be led by him in order to avoid many headaches in marriage as a result of a mismatch!

Now you could be still asking yourself what is the purpose of a marriage life? Well, marriage as an Institution of God is for procreation (Genesis 1:26-28) and also serves as an antidote for sexual immorality among people (1 Corinthians 7:1-2).

Marriage also is for companionship and fellowship and in helping each other in life (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) and that is why God said he was going to give Adam a helper (Genesis 2:18).

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; 1 will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:18

The only exception on marriage life is celibacy and which is a special gift from God and no one should try to force himself or herself to it (1 Corinthians 7:7, Matthew 19:1-12, Isaiah 56:1-7). Apostle Paul in the first scripture quoted had that gift and lived single without a wife and served the Lord whole heartedly.

Get to know that in this generation there are just too many divorce cases and one major cause is because many people led themselves into marriage and were not led by God. Better follow God's protocol and live not to regret in life.

In marriage the male partner normally has more responsibilities before and even after a marriage and therefore must prepare well in advance unlike the female counterpart for the following reasons: one need to have a house with all the basic items such as furniture and utensils in addition to having at least some means of lively hood, that is, is getting some regular income to sustain him and his wife and later their children, he becoming the head of the house and more so a breadwinner. It is so because it is a

taboo to continue to depend on his parents for daily provisions even after getting into a marriage and also cannot continue to live with his spouse in the same roof with his parents. Now let me take you to the steps that leads into a marriage:

- After praying to God and getting an answer and has confirmed your prospective partner then,
- Share the same with your pastor for further confirmation then if confirmed,
- Both of you inform your parents and get their concurrence/ approval/blessing and if gotten on both parents on both sides then,
- Go back to your pastor (the male partner and inform of the approval by both parents as indicated above and,
- The pastor to make it public to the church congregation your intention on the same and the subsequent announcement need be for three consecutive Sundays (to give an opportunity for any objection from any member in that church) and meanwhile,

- The pastor is supposed to be teaching and counseling the couples on family matters and at the same time,
- There need to be a church wedding committee to look at the various issues related to preparation for a wedding and to come up with a budget and the financial implications and to involve the male partner to chip in his thoughts and contribution finance wise and lastly but not the least,
- The pastor has to emphasize to the couples the need to maintain/remain pure until the wedding day and time as a matter of priority and finally after the three weeks of announcement of the wedding and over the following week a day which had been set when the wedding is to take place when there is no objection from any quarter, the couples exchange their marriage vows before an officiating pastor or bishop and the church members being present and after that,
- If there is a reception which had been organized the whole church congregation can proceed at the selected venue to take a meal and a drink and so on

and after that the bridegroom and the bride leave the venue to their house to begin their marriage life.

Chapter 8

The Youth and Business

After one has received his or her education and probably has got a formal employment, then one can venture into business if one so wishes. But before venturing into a business one must have some knowledge and also ask oneself some questions and get satisfactory answers to them. One need to have in mind if oner has a product or a service to provide and which is required out there and also if he or she is the only one or there are others already; meaning there is going to be competition if the demand for the product or service is small.

Also to note is that one must get a location (land) for doing the business, capital to employ on the business (capital outlay) as well as the labor to be employed to do it for him or her if is engaged in some other work and therefore cannot be there all the time to do the business himself or herself.

Touching on a place to do business one may be compelled t rent a house or a stall to do one's business in it. On labor one need to employ somebody to do the business on his or her behalf.

On capital it will largely depend on the type of business one is venturing into as some will require more capital than others.

But one need to begin with the minimum capital required in starting the business by starting small and growing gradually with time as the product or service continue to be in demand in the market., Why? Because generally business involve some risk factors and if one started his or her business in a big way and anything goes wrong, the loss can be quite disastrous – so it is wisdom to tread carefully. For example, market demand can change all of a sudden as market dynamics can be challenging at times.

Now the above factors are not all in the business environment as there are many others.

In case you have no knowledge on a particular business you want to venture into you can enquire from those who are already in the business in order to get a true picture of what it all entails – the capital required, the commitment, the viability and the challenges involved etc. One needs to know the cost of registering such a business and the license for operation, the cost of documents required in operation and more importantly if it is a legal business. One needs

proper books for accounting purposes and as well as taxation and which will need to be maintained on a daily basis as long as there is a transaction – something getting out or getting in the business.

After all the above has been put in place one will have the obligation to pay taxes when it will be due and also to be tithing the profits where one gets spiritual nourishment (the church or mosque). Another area also where some fail in is by being dishonest to their customers.

In business there need to be good ethics for one to succeed and flourish. Let us now visit the Scriptures on some of the issues I have touched on all along.

Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgement, or in .meteyard, in weight, or in measure.

Just balances, just weights a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgements, and do them: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:35-37

Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small.
Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small.
But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
For all that do such things and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 25:11-16

In the above scriptures we do see that God requires honesty which is a righteous act before him.

THE proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.
Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.
The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.
He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 10:1-4

A youth need to be wise so as to please his Creator (God) by living in righteousness or else live in wickedness and get no profit from it. A youth need diligence even in business to become rich and not poor. Read on.

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

Proverbs 22:29

There you are if you are a youth and in business.

A FALSE balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

Proverbs 11:1

It is honesty that pleases the Lord God.

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

Proverbs 13:11

No need for a youth to con or trick someone to become wealthy but rather it is better to get it by hard work for it to increase.

Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

Proverbs 20:10

There you are – different weights and measures are but tricks of conning people with but God your Creator truly detests such. So, come out of them. Read on.

Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

Leviticus 19:11

The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Proverbs 21:6

Many youths invite death in life by seeking to get the wealth of the world by deceit and not by their sweat (hard labor).

And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers?
Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.
Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Matthew 17:24-27

In that scripture Jesus demonstrated to all believers the need to be paying taxes to the Government of the day. So, it is right for a Christian to pay taxes just as it is right to pay tithes in the church (Matthew 22:15-22).

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.
Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:8-10

It is a dangerous thing to rob God by refusing to tithe and give offerings to him as one can end up cursed and being in a spiritual prison, as curses are like cells. So, if you are looking up for an increase do the needful by paying tithes to God and giving other offerings in his house (the church). For more information on curses I recommend to you my book entitled 'A Christian in a cursed world'.

LET every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.
Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisted the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power: do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:
For he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.
Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.
For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.
Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.
Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:1-8

Christians are commanded to also pay taxes among other things such as love to other people.

LET a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Believers in Christ Jesus are stewards of all that God entrusts in their hands and they are required to be faithful and that includes in business as well. You can read further the following scriptures on some of those who were faithful in their daily dealings: Daniel 6:1-4, Genesis 39:1-12, Nehemiah 13:9-13, 2 Chronicles 34:8-12, 2 Kings 5:1-16; 12:10-15 and Hebrews 3:1-6.

Let me say this as an advice as I wind up. If you continue in business holding fast to these oracles of God definitely he will make you to greatly succeed and flourish in your business and then this will be an opportune time for you to reinvest your finances further in other investment areas such as land and real estate where their value keep on appreciating with time in order to get more incomes and become financially stable and independent.

Now at this juncture I need to say that because honesty and faithfulness is becoming rare in many people, it is important if one is engaged elsewhere and has no time to run his or her business to do due diligence in recruiting a

worker or workers to run the business by engaging big and reputable employment bureau to do a professional work in vetting applicants and even before giving high standards of requirements for applying. On the same note the contract letter need be structured by a professional lawyer.
Another thing to consider is for you to have a separate personal bank account to cater for all domestic needs and not to have the tendency of dipping one's hands into the business account as that is lack of financial prudence and you can only destroy and kill your business that way. A successful business person is financially disciplined, is visionary and hardly does anything just any how lest the business crumbles down. He or she is careful in how to handle both creditors and debtors and is sensible and flexible with the business environment.

A word of caution: Business as the word says, makes people to be very busy so be careful not be so busy with God forgetting and he is the one that makes one rich (Deuteronomy 8:12-18) and also keeps your business afloat when others are sinking in debts. Make time to read the word of God and to pray as well as meditating on his

goodness. Lastly and of utmost importance is that there is a very lucrative business from God and which has eternal dividends and which is the fishing of men (the winning of souls to Christ Jesus) – Matthew 4:18-22. I highly recommend this one to you as I have a personal experience in it and has no regrets at all as God introduced it to me after my conversion to Christ Jesus.

Notes to the reader

Thank you for reading this book. If by now you had not yet given your life to Jesus Christ, you can do so now by repeating this prayer of repentance and believing with all your heart for God to save you. "Lord Jesus, I come to you now, I know I am a sinner, I repent of all my sins. Please forgive me and save me and cleanse me of all sins. I thank you Lord for saving my life. I ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen"

Now make sure you attend a church where the word of God in the Holy Bible is being preached and practiced. Ask the Pastor to baptize you in much water and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, you can send if any your views, comments or suggestions and scripture as well as to book for a seminar and so on using the address below:

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