



Wherever Christian youths live, they face immense challenges to their faith and holiness. The odds stacked against them defy concise description. These are no more just matters arising from contending with their own fleshly lusts and enticements of friends, but also from the internet social media that (blatantly or subtly) seek to undermine their faith and Christian values. Be it their beliefs, speech, conduct, entertainment, activities or dressing, Christian youths are pressurised to follow the worldly trends. This is not helped by another dreadful influence from within the church – even from certain youths who profess to be saved but live a worldly life.

Young people, who (to a great extent) symbolise the “face” of our churches, ought to be the “frontline” of our churches’ spiritual army. They make a statement about their churches by the way they live, just as they do about their families. While ungodly, ill-mannered, lazy and lethargic

young people bring disgrace to their churches and families, those with godly, well-mannered, strong and enterprising children have much to rejoice. Truly, “As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate” (Psalm 127:4-5). The blessedness of well-guided youths is corroborated by certain young men of biblical times who have been endowed with great measure of divine strength and wisdom to win their spiritual battles – youthful Joseph, Samuel, David, Josiah, Daniel, Timothy (and many more) who stood up for the LORD in their times! May our youths today be like them in displaying unusual maturity and ability.

We are not without aid in guiding our youths to victory in the spiritual battles waged against them, for the church is provided with the best spiritual resources. Christian parents and church

leaders need to avail themselves of those divine provisions for the equipping and empowering of our youths to stand for Christ. The Word of God – the Bible – is the youths’ first and foremost resource. “I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one” (1 John 2:14b). The apostle John, in speaking of strong and triumphant youths of the church, is not referring to their physical strength, but their spiritual strength which comes through spiritual resources that God provides.

Unfortunately, many physically strong young men, being “wrestled to the ground” and chained by worldliness in the pit of sin, are taken captive by the devil. Christian youths need something far greater than natural vigour to fight their spiritual battles. As enlisted soldiers of Christ’s army, they need to “be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10). The only way to be thus empowered in the might of God is to “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:1) by yielding to God in devotion and ceaseless prayer.

The key to spiritual strength, as 1 John 2:14b says, is the Word of God that abides in Christian youths. The Word is not to be kept out of their lives, but always embraced, studied, believed and obeyed. When the Word remains in them, it makes them followers of Christ, for Jesus said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed” (John 8:31). They shall then be always empowered and

equipped to fight and win their battles. The Word of God makes the youths pure. “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:9, 11). It establishes them in their spiritual walk and keeps them from faltering – “The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide” (Psalm 37:31). Furthermore, Word-abiding Christians will also achieve great things for the Lord through prayer – “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7).

The victory of spiritually empowered Christian youths is guaranteed (cf. 1 John 2: 13b). With the strength and wisdom of the most Holy God, all the young men and women of God must fight against the devil and not make peace with him. “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12). All those who are saved have already tasted the victory – “ye have overcome the wicked one.” In Christ we have victory, for He has defeated the devil on the cross. “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” (Hebrews 2:14). Indeed, they who have found their strength in the Lord and His Word will overcome all the ploys of the wicked one, and their final conquest is sure!



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*“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,
so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity:
for God loveth a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:7*

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