

Reading: Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

***“Seek first the Kingdom of God and the things acceptable to Him;
then all these things shall be given you beside” (Mt 6:33)***

Youth as well as parents usually have a question: Can youngsters, who should totally devote themselves to studies, indulge in prayers and Bible Study and involve in evangelistic activities?

Let me tell you briefly about my college days. When I was a student in the Pre-university Class in 1962 in St. John’s College, Palayamkottai, the Lord Jesus redeemed me this same day. I did my Bachelor’s degree in Engineering from 1963 to 1968 in the Alagappa Engineering College, Karaikudi, and my Master’s in Technology, 1968-70, in the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai. I passed out with flying colours. It was such an opportunity to spend all the eight years of my life in College with Christ and for Him.

I would get up at 4 or 5 in the morning and spend an hour in praise and prayer (Psa 143:8). The next half an hour was for Bible meditation. I would not skip this time with God even during the exam season. On certain days I would spend midnight twelve to one in prayer. I would keep chewing a verse picked out from my Pocket Testament (Psa 119:97).

Evenings were all for God! Six to seven was for private prayer in the woods near the College campus, and the next one hour was for the gathering of our campus prayer cell. I would share with the cell members whatever I learnt in my personal time with God. It was this daily gathering that helped our growth in the knowledge and things of God. The prayer group I started in Karaikudi has been alive and active all these 40 years (1963-2003). After studying my textbooks I would read a Psalm and retire to bed—for a sound sleep! (Psa 119:55).

We would go on bicycles for rural evangelism in weekends. On Thursday evenings we would visit some lepers outside the town with some eatables, and have an hour of worship with them. We had a weekly fasting prayer also. I am thrilled to realize that God had already trained us during our student days for the ministries done today in large scale in the Blessing Youth Mission. Thank you, Jesus!



*We'll come in the sunshine of youth's happy morning,
Our lives to His service we'll cheerfully give;
And pray for His Spirit to guide and direct us,
That we to His glory and honour may live!*

(Fanny J. Crosby, 1823-1915)

Almighty God, we worship You as the God of Wisdom; no knowledge is greater than Yours. We worship You as the God of Peace; no waves can disobey Your voice. We worship You as the God whose presence is full of joy; no pleasure of life is comparable to it. We worship You as the God of Power; no problem in our life is too difficult for You to solve. We worship You as the God of Eternity; nothing but Your Word stays for ever. There's no one like You, O Lord!

Father God, we thank You for those of our youngsters who have decided to follow Jesus Your Son. They have said yes to You and no to the devil. They have joined Your minority as against Satan's majority. But Lord, they at times find the temptations too strong and too attractive to resist. Protect them, Lord, by Your Word and Your power. Help them keep looking to Jesus who overcame every temptation common to man. Keep them safe from the deceptive offers of the enemy. Strengthen them to overcome the competitors for their hour of prayer and Bible meditation. May Your Spirit lift them up when they fall. Let them overcome the temptation to quit.

Lord God, we pray for us parents and elders. We are sorry, we don't pray enough for our sons and daughters. We are sorry, we have not been good role models before them. We are sorry for our over-enthusiasm in their studies than their spirituality. We are sorry, we have over-corrected them and made them hate religion. Help us, Lord, to support them for wholesome growth: physical, intellectual, spiritual and social. Help us understand the world around them and counsel them practically. Help us create a pleasant atmosphere for them at home. Give us patience to understand the modern generation.

Dear Lord, we come to You for the parents who wet their pillows with tears for their children who have gone astray. We know that You would not despise their cries. Speak to their prodigal sons and daughters. Let them come to their senses. No one is beyond Your reach. No one is too hard to be converted. We pray for a miracle, O God. Bring them back and restore joy in their families. You are a prayer-answering God. We believe that Your delays are not denials.

Father God, we pray for those of Your servants whose hearts are broken because of the lifestyle of their children. Have mercy on them and help them not to lose their joy in You and enthusiasm in Your work. You are a God of understanding. We praise You in Jesus' Name! Amen!

(Job 11:7-9; 1 Cor 14:33; Psa 16:11; 65:2; Gen 17:1; Isa 46:10; Heb 1:9; 2:18; Lk 2:52; 15:17,20,25,32)